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Lebanon

Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh officially handed over German hostages Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig to FRG official Bernd Schmidbauer at 0655 GMT on 17 June in Lebanon, Beirut radio announced. The two hostages will fly to Crete to meet with family members and then go on to Bonn. Al-Sulh thanked Syria for its assistance in the release, adding that a "tragic saga" had ended, according to the radio. In another development, Lebanese Forces commander Ja'ja' said "he will submit his written resignation whenever he is asked to do so," according to Radio Free Lebanon. On the same occasion, Minister Franjiyah said that "he was resigning from the government to protest the presence of Dr. Ja'ja'."

Libya

Former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bakkush said he takes responsiblity for the claim that recent articles in AL-JAMAHIRIYAH critical of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "were written by the Colonel himself." In an interview with London AL-HAYAH, al-Bakkush asserted that al-Qadhdhafi "is still the absolute ruler" and "in total control of power." Meanwhile, an article in AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR entitled "Thank You...America" praised Resolution 748 for exposing the "falseness" of Arab solidarity, according to JANA. Meanwhile, the Libyan People's Congress has decided "to turn over a new leaf" in relations with the West and will hand over both Lockerbie bombing suspects to a neutral country, according to an AL-AKHBAR article cited by MENA. MENA also cites AL-JUMHURIYAH as saying that the People's Congress adopted a "secret resolution" on extraditing the suspects.

Jordan

The Democratic Unionist Association announced it was breaking up after 17 years of political activity, the JORDAN TIMES reported on 17 June. The party's founder said the party's dissolution was "not for the sake of ending it political mission, but to encourage mergers among the many political groupings which are on the verge of announcing themselves as political parties." Meanwhile, an editorial in AL-RA'Y accused Libya of "slandering Arabism and the Arabs," adding that a "cheap writer" in the Libyan press or "cowardly pens" in official circles could not determine the country's position on pan-Arabism.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin held a debate on 16 June that was broadcast over Jerusalem TV. Meanwhile, at a reception in Haifa the new Chinese ambassador to Israel "categorically" denied that the PRC supplies Middle Eastern countries with nuclear weapons, adding that "the PRC does not intend to upset the balance of power in the Middle East," according to Jerusalem radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Returns From Rio Summit

NC1606211692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1908 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid announced that the Arab League Council will hold an extraordinary meeting at the foreign ministers level in early July at the request of Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to discuss the deteriorating situation in southern Lebanon.

In a statement upon his return from Brazil this evening, he said he will tour Syria and Lebanon in July, aimed at coordinating and discussing the developments in southern Lebanon.

He added that while in Rio de Janiero, he met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and discussed with him the current situation in Lebanon, Somalia, and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

He said that they also discussed ways to consolidate cooperation between the United Nations and the Arab League within the context of the accord signed between both sides.

He stated that he and Dr. Butrus-Ghali discussed coordination between the Arab League and UN positions about the Libyan-Western crisis and its development.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid stated that he delivered a speech at the Earth Summit, which ended in Rio de Janiero two days ago, outlining the Arab position about environmental and development issues and the impact of the (?Israeli occupation) on the population and environment in the occupied Arab territories.

He said that apart from his meeting with Dr. Ghali, he met on the sidelines of the Earth Summit with Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al- Ahmad al-Sabah; Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam; the foreign ministers of Morocco and Lebanon; and Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir.

Islamic Affairs

Ministers Arrive in Istanbul for ICO Session

Jordan's Abu-Jabir Arrives

JN1606174392 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Jordanian Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil arrived in Istanbul tonight to participate in the Islamic foreign ministers emergency session that opens tomorrow.

The two-day meeting will discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, in addition to other Islamic problems like the situation in the occupied Arab territories and southern Lebanon.

Iran's Velayati, ICO's al-Ghabid Meet

NC1706094392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati—currently in Istanbul for an Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers extraordinary meeting—met with ICO Secretary General Hamid al-Ghabid last night. Our correspondent in Turkey sent this report:

[Begin recording] The ICO secretary general described the presence of Dr. Velayati and delegation as a source of moral support and expressed appreciation for Iran's initiative in calling for a conference to discuss Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said: The ICO's position is very important due to its effect on the Security Council. It is possible that following sanctions, the Security Council may consider military intervention.

Dr. Velayati stated: If we remain silent, this problem could spread to all the Islamic countries. The people of this republic need our assistance, and the Islamic ummah is watching what we do.

The foreign minister expressed his gratitude that Iran's proposal for an extraordinary session of the ICO foreign ministers was accepted, and he declared Iran's willingness to provide assistance to the calamity-ridden people of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He stated: Bosnia-Hercegovina is Islamic territory, and we should be sensitive to its fate. [end recording]

Continuing his report, our correspondent added that Bosnia-Hercegovina's foreign minister met with Dr. Velayati last night. During this meeting, Silajdzic said: To prevent the situation from deteriorating, the international community should militarily intervene in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He described the devastation in the republic as massive, saying: More than 220 mosques sustained 70 to 80 percent damage, and six churches were completely destroyed.

Dr. Velayati said the extraordinary session was a sign of the Islamic countries' sensitivity to the massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina, adding: It is the international community's obligation to sever relations with Serbia due to the Serbian crimes and massacre of Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Syria's al-Shar' Meets Counterparts

JN1706065992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met at his Istanbul residence last night with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa; Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas; Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Tofik Gasymov; and Mr. Zafir al-Hasan, head of the Lebanese delegation. They exchanged views about topics on the agenda of the

extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers and about a number of issues of mutual concern.

Mr. al-Shar' arrived in Istanbul yesterday to attend the ICO meeting, which will open this morning. The ICO foreign ministers will discuss the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and the bloody incidents there. At Lebanon's and Syria's request, they will also discuss the continuing Israeli aggressions against Lebanon. The foreign ministers will also discuss the question of Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

Conference Leader Views Serbia

TA1706100692 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 0945 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Istanbul, June 17 (A.A)—The secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (ICO), Hamid al-Ghabid, said here on Tuesday that the United Nations Security Council should enforce stronger measures against Serbia if it fails to abide by UN resolutions.

In a report to be presented to an extraordinary meeting of ICO foreign ministers due to start here on Wednesday, al-Ghabid said the Moslems of Bosnia-Hercegovina were victims of Serbian attacks and that the Belgrade government was directly responsible for the murder of Moslems and Croatians.

He said the Serbian militia forces in the region should be disbanded, the defence forces of Bosnia-Hercegovina reinforced and a UN peacekeeping force set up in certain parts of the country.

He also called on ICO member countries and international organizations to send food and medical aid to Bosnia-Hercegovina.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 0801 GMT adds the following: "Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Tuesday to take part in the extraordinary session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to be inaugurated here Wednesday." "Speaking to reporters upon arrival, Velayati said that Iran favors intensification of international pressure on the Serbs as long as they continue to breach human and international regulations. 'The Islamic countries have the duty to adopt decisive and clear-cut decisions in assisting the B-H Muslims and stopping of the war,' Velayati said." "Velayati added that the Islamic countries should severe ties with Belgrade as long as Serbian atrocities against Muslims continue."]

Palestinian Affairs

Conferences To Sign 'Covenant of Honor' Urged

TA1606153692 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 16 Jun 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "We Refuse To Allow the Killing of Residents To Turn Into a Daily Habit!"]

[Text] Has it become a frightening crazy habit for us to wake up each morning and find the corpses of one or more residents killed by masked men under the pretext of the victims' collaborating with the Israeli authorities and then wake up the next day to find another corpse while in the meantime it has become evident that the first murdered man was not a collaborator or agent but "just a victim" from among scores of other victims? The cycle goes on, from one corpse to another and from one victim to another. Our blood is being shed and spilled by our own hands under terrifying fear, as if this is a never-ending night!

We refuse to allow these criminal killings to turn into a habit. We also refuse to allow collective human feelings to get clouded to a degree whereby murdering an innocent resident becomes a transitory incident that might either be published by the newspapers in small print or not published. We refuse to remain silent to all this. Silence under these perilous conditions is the shortest way to destroying the people and the entire homeland.

We have written many times about this grave problem and published the text of the Gaza "covenant of honor" calling for an immediate end to these crimes. But the cycle of killings has not stopped and is growing daily in various parts of the occupied territories.

Therefore, we demand that a series of public conferences be held in every town, village, and refugee camp with the aim of signing this "covenant of honor" and setting up a responsible public mechanism within the limits of our legal possibilities to protect the lives of the residents and defend their honor and the sanctity of their homes and properties.

We should hasten to do this today before tomorrow, because the road is extremely dark and the perils are many and endless.

Egypt

'Senior Libyan Official' Expected 'in 24 Hours'

NC1606211292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2013 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper reports that a senior Libyan official will arrive in Cairo in 24 hours.

In its Wednesday edition, the paper says the Libyan official's visit focuses on removing any obstacles to Libyan-Egyptian relations and refuting any rumors aimed at harming these relations.

Libyan newspapers, meanwhile, continue to emphasize the importance of relations with Egypt and that they are not concerned about the reports being published about Libyan-Arab relations.

Libya Makes 'Secret Resolution' on Bombing Suspects

NC1706075892 Cairo MENA in English 0617 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the Press Review]

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—[passage omitted] The three national government-owned newspapers' front page second lead stories concern dispatches from Libya about the Libyan People's Congress now nearing an end. AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH include dispatches from correspondents covering the Congress in Libya.

AL-AHRAM's headlines highlight the Libyan press continuing its diatribes against the Arab states.

A four-column headline in AL-AKHBAR reports that the Congress has decided to turn over a new leaf in Libyan relations with the West, handing over the two suspects, whose extradition is sought on charges of blowing up an American airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, to a neutral nation. It adds that Libyan law did not prohibit extraditing the suspects, who decided to accept extradition voluntarily.

AL-JUMHURIYAH reports in its headlines that the Libyan People's Congress adopted a secret resolution about extraditing the suspects and made a statement published by a Libyan newspaper, saying: "We will not sacrifice our interests for the illusion of Arab nationalism." [passage omitted]

Mediation Efforts in Lockerbie Affair Suspended

PM1606093992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 92 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Suspends Efforts To Resolve Lockerbie Crisis"]

[Excerpts] There were no surprises at the opening of the Libyan General People's Congress [GPC] after Libya reaffirmed that Libyan law does not permit extradition of the two suspects in the Lockerbie incident to another state. [passage omitted]

Informed sources in Cairo confirmed that Egypt decided to suspend its efforts for settling the crisis between Libya and the three Western states. That follows weeks of intense activity and shuttle visits to Tripoli by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of President Husni Mubarak's office for political affairs, which succeeded in effecting a Libyan-British meeting. The sources stated that Egypt's decision to suspend its efforts for settling the crisis came after the sudden Libyan press attacks on Arab states, including Egypt, and the start of another media war between both countries just days before the Libyan GPC session.

The sources stated that in recent contacts Egypt told Libya that the excesses against Egyptian workers in Libya must stop, particularly since the Egyptian workers' remittances were stopped—especially the remittances of those whose contracts are with the government—and after the workers were asked to submit their resignations without any compensation. The Libyan authorities also unilaterally decided to charge custom duties on Egyptian goods.

Meanwhile, there has been no official statement in Cairo about the recall to Libya of Ahmad Qadhdhaf al-Damm, coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan relations, although some sources said that he went to Tripoli to attend the final session of the Libyan GPC. [passage omitted]

Daily Sees 'Power Struggle' Developing in Libya

NC1706084992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0639 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM says today that recent events in Libya are undoubtedly the outcome of the sanctions the UN Security Council imposed on it after its initial failure to hand over the two men suspected of blowing up a U.S. airliner over Lockerbie.

The paper notes Libyan media's recent tendency to criticize the regime's policy toward Arab and Islamic countries and to urge placing Libyan interests above all other considerations. AL-AHRAM says this tendency, which has been viewed as an attempt at a reconciliation with the West, resulted from the people's hardships caused by the economic blockade. It adds that the media denounced the strenuous efforts of some government and General People's Congress officials to emphasize a hardline policy, efforts that have not affected the media's new tone.

AL-AHRAM says this agitation can be interpreted in several ways: foremost is that the government instigated it to prove to the outside world that the country has a respectable democratic system based on plurality of views and the majority view eventually prevailing.

The paper says this interpretation does not preclude the troubling possibility of this same game perpetuating itself, leading to unforeseeable results; it might get out of

hand and let some individuals who want to seize power escalate things to the point where, if they are not checked in time, a power struggle will develop.

The paper concludes: Clearly, the Western-Libyan confrontation has caused severe losses to Libya, which might need a long time to mend and which might still cause other troubles. Egyptians cling to the hope that Libya and its loyal and proud people will remain a noble, generous, and dignified neighbor.

'Bomb Hoax' Delays Flight to Amman

NC1606165592 Cairo MENA in English 1635 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—A bomb hoax today delayed a Jordanian airliner's flight to Amman for two hours. The Jordanian airline's regional director received word that a bomb had been planted on the plane flying to Amman.

Cairo Airport security men and sappers searched passengers and their luggage but found no bomb.

Awqaf Minister on 'United Front' Against Terrorism

NC1606124592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Alexandria, 15 Jun (MENA)—Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub announced that all of society—all its sections and institutions—must form a united front against terrorism and bloodshed and play a role in confronting the terrorist danger. He stated that shirking this duty is a crime against religion and the homeland, and the ulema and preachers must unite to confront extremism.

The awqaf minister, who was addressing a preachers conference today in Alexandria, added: It is our responsibility to besiege all dens of extremism with courage and patience. He said a preacher should enlighten the masses so that they can be on guard. He noted that attempts to undermine Egypt's distinctive stability and security and terrorize peaceable citizens harm Egypt's Islamic role and status considerably.

The minister noted the preachers' incessant efforts to enlighten the people. He said this campaign continues all over the country to protect young people. He asserted that current circumstances require society to confront extremism with courage and mature, enlightened reasoning.

He urged the ulema and officials to adopt a unified position and tour the country to forestall sedition spurred by narrow ambitions and promote enlightened reasoning, which will create an appropriate climate for propagating the word of God without using intimidating methods.

Dr. Mahjub announced that resorting to guns rather than dialogue will be a major setback for Islamic, pioneering Egypt and smother calls for an enlightened Islamic awakening. He stressed the necessity of acting sincerely and selflessly to nip sedition in the bud and safeguard the homeland and the people's sanctities.

The awqaf minister said people are free to believe what they want, but it is contrary to Islamic teaching for them to impose their ideas on others by force. He stated that no one has the right to assume the task of legislator, judge, and policeman and judge people in the name of Islam. He said this contradicts divine teachings and leads to social chaos, explaining that Islam is a religion of order that confronts ideas with ideas and opinions with opinions. He noted that the Islamic shari'ah rejects bloodshed as an alternative to debate and dialogue.

Dr. Mahjub said that the state, represented by its institutions, is not against the religious youth, because they are Egypt's sons. The state supports them so they can carry their sober religious studies to their culmination without terrorism or bloodshed.

The awqaf minister urged religious youth who want to be active in religious matters to purge their ranks of those who harm the image of Islam. He said: We believe that the call to Islam is based on wisdom and tolerance.

Mahjub concluded by saying that a conference will soon be held at the Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, to be attended by high-ranking ulemas, researchers, intellectuals, and heads of Egyptian Islamic societies and bodies. The minister noted that the conferees will draw up a unified plan to clarify Islam's true image and protect its moderate path from misguided and narrow-minded people. The conference will be held under the auspices of al-Azhar with the guidance of its grand imam, the minister added.

'Arafat Sends Cable of Thanks to President Mubarak

NC1506155092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1410 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Cable from Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in reply to congratulations about his recovery from surgery—date not given]

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—I received your brotherly congratulations on my recovery from recent surgery with the utmost appreciation. On behalf of our Palestinian people, my brother members of the PLO Executive Committee, and in my own name, I would like to express to Your Excellency, to your esteemed government, and to your fraternal people our profound thanks for your warm brotherly feelings and sincere wishes that you exhibited through your interest, telephone calls, and by sending your ambassador to fraternal Jordan as your special envoy to visit me and assure you about my health.

I would like to express to you our great appreciation for the firm, principled position of your fraternal people and esteemed government under your wise leadership in support of our just cause, our people's struggle, and their national intifadah to end the Israeli occupation of their land and sanctities and to restore and exercise their inalienable national rights, including their right to return to their homeland, determine their future, establish their

independent state with Jerusalem as its capital, and to achieve a just peace in our region.

I pray to God Almighty to grant you and us success and to bless our efforts to serve the goals of our Arab and Islamic nation, unify its ranks, and enhance its prestige. I again would like to express our deep thanks and wish you good health, happiness, and continued success in leading your fraternal people on the path to progress and prosperity. With my utmost amity and appreciation, we will continue together until victory and return to liberated Jerusalem with God's help.

Musa, Mauritanian Envoy Discuss Mideast, Africa

NC1606073192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1946 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Mohamed Lamine Ould Yahia, Mauritanian ambassador in Cairo.

The Mauritanian ambassador said after the meeting that he and Musa discussed events in the Middle East and Africa within the framework of bilateral coordination on the Organization of African Unity summit, to be held in Dakar, Senegal at the end of June.

He added that he conveyed a message from Mauritanian Foreign Minister Moine to Musa containing an invitation to visit Mauritania. Musa accepted the invitation; the date of the visit will be determined after consultations between both countries.

Musa Meets With Cameroon Ambassador in Cairo

NC1606071992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met this evening with Cameroon's ambassador in Cairo. The ambassador conveyed a message from Cameroon's foreign minister, within the framework of bilateral discussions prior to the 29 June African summit in Dakar. They also discussed ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations in various fields.

Musa Departs for Istanbul ICO Meeting

NC1606091092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his delegation left Cairo this morning for Vienna en route to Istanbul to attend the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers meeting, which will open Wednesday and last for two days.

In a statement prior to his departure, Musa said this urgent meeting will examine the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina, noting that emphasis will be placed on the need to observe a cease-fire and on ways to help this republic take a political and humanitarian position. Musa stated that some countries want the conference to discuss other issues, but he expressed his belief that it is better for the conference to handle only the urgent issues.

Asked about the Libyan People's Congress and the ongoing debate, particularly as it affects Libyan-Arab relations, Musa said the discussion within the congress and the people's committees on Libyan-Arab relations reflected the viewpoint of the individual speaker or author, and "I have no comment about these discussions."

Asked what the ICO meeting could add to UN Security Council Resolution 757, which condemned the aggression against Bosnia-Hercegovina, Musa said it will further emphasize the Islamic states' position and provide an opportunity for consultations about issues that threaten Muslims worldwide. He noted that there is foot-dragging in handling the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina. He added: To confront this aggression and violation of human rights, we must act quickly, in terms of providing humanitarian assistance and taking a frank, clear, and urgent position beside those suffering from aggression.

The foreign minister added: The situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina is abnormal due to the nonrecognition of this people's desire for self-determination and independence, which we acknowledged along with the UN and everybody else.

'Ubayd Cited on 'Positive' Rio Conference

NC1606072092 Cairo MENA in English 1912 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, June 15 (MENA)—Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of state for administrative development, returned here this evening, coming from Brazil, after having chaired Egypt's delegation to the UN Conference on Environment and Development, which wound up proceedings yesterday in Rio de Janeiro.

Dr. 'Ubayd is to submit, during this week, a report to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, about the results of the conference.

Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd stated upon arrival that the results of the conference were positive as far as Egypt is concerned, where support and appreciation were rendered evident for President Husni Mubarak. He said that through his meetings with heads of states and delegations from 25 countries, he was assured of the fact that Egypt is going to attain priority among the Third World countries in obtaining appropriations to be allocated for its programmes of development of natural resources and family planning.

"The conference succeeded at all levels, and it is sufficient for the world countries to meet while prompted by a common fate and objective", he added, noting that the conference faced no problems.

Security Council Meeting on Lebanon Called For

NC1606055192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2126 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM called for an urgent Security Council meeting to deal with the repeated Israeli aggressions in southern Lebanon. In Tuesday's editorial, the newspaper says the pretext that Israel is responding to fedayeen attacks is null and void, because the operations occurring in the occupied territories are legal operations aimed at liberating the land, and the Security Council must employ deterrent measures to force an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon.

The newspaper says the excuse that withdrawal should be based on negotiations during the bilateral talks is not right, because the explosive situation in southern Lebanon requires Security Council intervention to force the aggressor to withdraw. Also, the situation is not sufficiently calm for bilateral talks to continue on the assumption that they will actually lead to implementation of the Security Council resolution on withdrawal.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM notes that Israel's aggression in Lebanon was planned for some time. Israel's extensive military movements and the one-upmanhip between the Labor and Likud Parties on keeping the occupied territories are proof of this.

Editorial Sees Arab 'Disintegration, Deterioration'

NC1606082392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0609 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM noted that the state of disintegration and deterioration in the Arab world could explain several of the explosive events in the Arab homeland, such as the repeated Israeli aggressions in southern Lebanon and Israel's repressive practices against the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

In its editorial today, the paper states that the level of deterioration in Arab coordination requires practical and speedy measures to restore some features of cooperation and thus safeguard supreme Arab interests and within this framework the national interests of each Arab country. The paper states that responsibility for this rests with the Egyptian and Syrian leaders. These two countries can set an example for relations that serve the interests of each country and yet preserve supreme Arab interests. Then there is the responsiblity of the other Arab parties, which could consolidate these relations and broaden their framework.

In conclusion, the paper demands the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon, as a prelude to the Lebanese state exercising authority over its territory.

Libya

Ex-Prime Minister on Lockerbie, al-Qadhdhafi

PM1606155092 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 13 Jun 92 pp 1, 4

['Ali al-Ruz report: "Libya: Committees To Allow Suspects To Hand Themselves Over to Neutral State"]

[Excerpts] London—Former Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bakkush said yesterday that the Libyan General People's Congress—which meets today to examine handing over the two suspects accused of blowing up the Pan Am plane over Lockerbie—will decide to grant the suspects the "right to hand themselves over if they want to, as long as it is to a neutral state."

In a statement to AL-HAYAH, he revealed that he obtained a copy of one of the draft resolutions to be discussed by the congress. It says Arabs should have entry visas to Libya, like foreigners. He stated that Egypt will be the next stop in the campaign of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, "who withdrew his ambassador (Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm) from there three days ago."

He also revealed that al-Qadhdhafi asked Morocco's King Hassan II, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali to mediate with the U.S. and British Governments, on the basis that the suspects could be handed over as long as they are tried and the case closed immediately but that the mediation received no response. [passage omitted]

He said that what has happened in the Libyan media "was merely one of brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's theatrical spectacles to which we have been accustomed for more than 20 years. The fact—which I know, and which I wager will become clear within a week—is that al-Qadhdhafi is still the absolute ruler, who is in charge of all the Libyan people's affairs and who keeps all Libya's oil revenue in his own account."

He added: "The regime in Libya has been controlled by one man since 1969. The colonel is still in total control of power. I take responsibility for the claim that the articles in the newspaper, AL-JAMAHIRIYAH, which criticized the colonel for three successive days were written by the colonel himself." [passage omitted]

Al-Bakkush stated that he personally heard "from al-Qadhdhafi's closest aides how they were proud that Libya downed the U.S. plane before any of the investigation's results were announced. Regardless of who is the real culprit of the Lockerbie crime, al-Qadhdhafi is for the first time facing the biggest problem in the history of his regime." [sentence as published]

He said that al-Qadhdhafi cannot hand over the suspects accused of blowing up the plane, "because they will reveal serious information about the case, which would

lead to him personally being accused of that crime and other crimes.'" [passage omitted]

At the same time, an informed Libyan (nonopposition-ist) source told AL-HAYAH that al-Qadhdhafi recently made a series of changes affecting senior officials directly answerable to him, including Ahmad Qadhdhaf-al-Damm, coordinator of relations with Egypt, who has played an important role in foreign and domestic policy. He said that al-Qadhdhafi is currently planning further changes that could extend as far as dismissing Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Bishari and a large number of other Libyan officials. [passage omitted]

The source stated that the statements made by 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, ambassador to Tunisia and former foreign minister, which reflected a softening of Libya's position toward the West, have two motives: first, the regime's desire to prepare for a rapprochement process with the Western capitals. Recent media moves in Libya and the criticisms of al-Qadhdhafi's policy lie within this context. They were ordered by the Libyan leader personally. The second motive is al-'Ubaydi's own desire to assume the post of foreign minister again in the event of al-Bishari's dismissal.

The source did not rule out the emergence of further criticisms by the Libyan organs on al-Qadhdhafi's orders so that he can have a justification for dealing with the West more flexibly to avert the imposition of further sanctions, especially an oil embargo, which al-Qadhdhafi wishes to avoid.

Al-Qadhdhafi Record on Arab Issues Viewed

LD1606120592 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0945 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Apr (JANA)—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR [Tripoli- based newspaper of the Libyan Revolutionary Committees] published today the following editorial entitled: "We Call Upon You To Be Libyan."

No Arab, ruler or ruled, can deny Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's true pan-Arab positions. It was Qadhdhafi who worked for the sake of unity and who made this issue the daily food for thought of every citizen. It was he who went to every Arab ruler to call for Arab unity, for opening borders, destroying gates, and for lifting the legacy of backwardness, such as customs, passports, and visas. It was also he who told the Arabs that Arab oil is for the Arabs and that it is the right of every Arab citizen to have a share in this wealth.

Al-Qadhdhafi and all the Arabs know that it was he who signed with all the Arab rulers more than 20 agreements of integration, merger, or union projects. It was al-Qadhdhafi who spoke directly to the Arab masses and called on them to assert themselves and achieve their unity to solve their problems. al-Qadhdhafi was the only one who changed the culture of the Libyans from a Libyan culture to a pan-Arab one aimed at achieving unity and ready to concede everything to benefit the Arabs.

The newspaper added: But what did al-Qadhdhafi gain from all this?

The facts have proven that Arabs, be they rulers or masses, did not benefit from al-Qadhdhafi and from his pan-Arab convictions for reasons that are basically due to the Arabs themselves. So, they all returned to their interests, links and local sovereignties.

Yes, al-Qadhdhafi did the impossible for the sake of the Arabs, which he did in implementing his convictions and the constancy of his thought. But al-Qadhdhafi finds himself today in the same position in which 'Abd al-Nasir found himself in the past: blamed by the masses of his Libyan people. We have not forgotten the blame and the responsibility the Egyptian people put on 'Abd al-Nasir when they told him that the Arabs had let him down. Now, the Libyans find themselves saying to al-Qadhdhafi that the Arabs have let him down. They were courteous even when you were talking about the nation's destiny and unity; about the Arabs' wealth for the Arabs; about the pan-Arab nature of the battle; about the liberation; and about every pan-Arab matter, which is more in the interest of the Arabs than of that of the Libyans. Today, the Libyans find themselves reconsidering the whole thing and asking themselves a big question: where are the results of what al-Qadhdhafi told us?

Al-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR continues its editorial by saying: Where are the Arabs of whom al-Qadhdhdafi was speaking? Where is the unity about which al-Qadhdhdafi had urged us to make sacrifices for its sake?

Today, too, Libyans find themselves face to face with the clear answer that grows daily and which will finally shock this people: all of what al-Qadhdhafi said, despite its greatness and truth, did not produce a response from the rest of the Arabs. Facts are the best testimony.

AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR stresses that Libyans are entitled, as masters of their own destiny, to differ with al-Qadhdhafi and let him grapple with his unionist convictions, pan-Arab principles and zeal for the Arabs. With due respect to al-Qadhdhafi, Libyans have other convictions that start and end with their own interests and, apart from this, they are Libyans first and Arabs when they think about their interests and regional ties. With these convictions, they are not prepared to make the sacrifice for a unity that will not serve their interest. They are not prepared to open their borders, abolish their customs and passports in a way that would deprive their country a lot of the revenues that other Arabs are not willing to forego and for which they left their check points, their borders and customs still in operation.

Al-Qadhdhafi is a revolutionary, a unionist, and a pan-Arab. He strives to liberate Palestine, restore the Arab character, and confirm the belief in the Arab nation.

which he has a noble mission to bring about and is his culture. We know he will not betray it.

Al-Qadhdhafi as an Arab citizen has all the freedom to believe in this plus the fact that he belongs to a Jamahiri society that takes into account every citizen's point of view.

We have traversed all the pan-Arab roads with al-Qadhdhafi. Today we are turning off these roads, but we do not prevent al-Qadhdhafi from reaching the end of the road . Most probably, the Arabs have come to know Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the greatness of his pan-Arab mission. They might even have truly thought of rallying around him and if so, we are willing to rejoin al-Qadhdhafi and the Arabs .

But now, we are not prepared to be (? lovers) of unity, and we are not prepared to march behind an illusion and a mirage, nor are we willing to lose our interests and sacrifice our potentials for his sake.

The paper concludes by stating: We cannot but say to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that we are Libyans and we want you to be a Libyan like us. Leader, let us try what the Arabs are clinging to. We are no more zealous than they are in this respect.

Americs Exposed 'Falseness' of Arab Declarations

LD1606213992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jun (JANA)—AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR today carried, on its second page, an article entitled "Thank You...America," which read:

Thank you, America. You have been so gracious to us; and we would either be naive or ungrateful not to acknowledge your good deeds. You awakened us to the fact that our neglecting the gigantic agricultural projects made us fully dependent on what comes over from beyond the borders. Thank you, America, for you alone were able to lift us from our dream, or rather the mirage we were living in. You uncovered for us the fact that there are no Arab regions [aqtar] but, rather, there are Arab states, nay, sometimes there are nations and nationalities. This has been confirmed after the passing of your Resolution 748. Even those Arab countries that are with us in a Maghreb Union have not violated your resolution, although the air travel among us is local, similar to cities inside the union. But they have behaved as if we are not one state. Airline movement has been prohibited among us, the Arab peoples, though we were one people not two, from Marrakech to Bahrain. We discovered the falseness of this motto and that we are a collection of peoples, states, their majesties, their excellencies, herds and eunuchs.

The article added that we used to believe that Arab rulers would stand by our side with all their strength. They know very well that the Libyan territories were forbidden for them, prior to al-Fatih [September] 1969. Those who wished to enter would need [words indistinct]. In its article, AL-ZAHF continued to say that Arabs forgot that Libyan territories did not belong to the Arabs, that, on Saturdays, al-Magariaf street, in Tripoli, was devoted to the Jews, and al-Fatih street was devoted to the Italians and that the al- Andalus district used to be called Gergin-Popili [its Italian name].

They forgot everything. They forgot that the supermarket in Libya used to be full of American and European products and that, contrary to what exists today, Arab products were not licensed to enter Libya. Nowadays, even frozen goods come to the Jamahiriyah from the Arab countries, competing with national industries; not for nothing do we aspire for the creation of one Arab homeland [words indistinct] economic, passage without a card or an ID and the removal of all kinds of borders on the basis that they limit the movement of brothers. But America poured cold water on us while we were at the climax of euphoria and intoxication. On that day, we came to realize that the Arab homelands are many, that the Arab states are even more so and that Arab nations are countless.

[Words indistinct] and another wishing to go for the pilgrimage but his ritual clothes [ihram—two loose garments worn as part of the pilgrimage ritual] are American-made and another's are Israeli-made, especially after the Jewish rabbis entered the land from which Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, expelled them [words indistinct] including the Libyan people. The American resolution [UN Security Council Resolution 748] wants that.

Today, the Arab newspapers that were not allowed in Libya, even if they were to act as pimps for the defunct era [the monarchy], enter the country with the blessing of the great al-Fatih revolution. They can make insults and depict someone who died in a traffic accident, or in an accident at work, as being killed on purpose and with premeditation.

In its article, AL-ZAHF added that, except for an honorable few, their vision was blinded. There is no explanation for closing Arab airspace to Libyan aviation. There is no international legality that could interfere in the domestic matters of the Arabs, provided that we accept that we are one Arab state. The Arab regimes forgot the Libyan blood that was mixed with the soil of the Arab states. Then, we considered that mixing Libyan blood with the Arab soil is the proper solution for liberating Arab land. Then, we did not say that Libya's interest was over and above all other interests; then, we did not use the narrow regional mentality. When we boycotted Western ships, in solidarity with the Arabs, we did not say, then, that the matter did not need taking a serious and firm position. We considered the cause as a cause for all.

The newspaper made clear that America has been able to expose for us the falseness of Arab declarations. It is as if America was telling us that it was time you woke up and considered your own interest, which is the bitter truth

that we were trying not to spell out. But circumstances now dictate that we should clarify the following:

1. Any change that may occur in the Jamahiriyah will reflect on the Arab masses, beginning with their movements.
2. Arab goods that found a market in the Jamahiriyah will lose this market in the event that Arab unity, in its current form, experiences a setback.

AL-ZAHF continued its points, which are:

3. Liberation movements will lose Libyan support, which has a positive influence at present.
4. Millions of Arabs will lose job opportunities that are now available to them.

It pointed out that everybody knows that if we compared job opportunities that Arabs enjoy in the Jamahiriyah at present with those of Libyans in the other Arab countries, everybody would discover that the percentage would be zero.

It concluded by stating: As mentioned above, we find that Arab regimes did not study the consequence of conducting a blockade against the Jamahiriyah. America did not build a wall suspended in the air between Arab countries and Libya; it succeeded, however, as there were Arab regimes that imposed the blockade against Libya before the other states, and they [unidentified Arab regimes] were even quicker in imposing it.

The paper concluded: Thank you, America. You are the one that implemented the popular saying: "The one that bites you reminds you of your teeth." We had really forgotten that we had teeth and that we could bite with them and that the Libyan market could be a successful market for American and Western products and that Europe could be a market where we can spend foreign currency.

Finally, I hope that there will be an Arab awakening that will affect Arab governments [word indistinct] everybody knows that the one who has the Jamahiriyah for lunch will have the remaining Arab states and nations for dinner.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH Derides Arab Unity

LD1606143992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jun (JANA)—In a prominent place the newspaper AL-JAMAHIRIYAH today carries an article under the caption: "Do Not Speak in My Name." It reads:

I do not speak like you in the name of others, because I only express my personal viewpoint and conviction. For this reason, I will not speak in the name of others. Thank God for Resolution No. 748, which made us aware that we are owners of oil and other wealth that should be exploited to benefit Libyans and must not be exploited to serve the principle of Arab unity; that this oil and other resources in Libya are Libyan; that Libya's petroleum is for Libya and not for the Arabs; and that the saying that advocates "the oil of the Arabs is for the Arabs" is wrong. This slogan must not be raised in the future, and these resources must not be used to raise the (?standard) of the Arab man in the Arab homeland.

Thanks go to the UN Security Council, which issued its Resolution No. 748. By adopting this resolution, we now understand that destroying the borders, removing the checkpoints, proclaiming the unity, whether be it in the Djerba declaration or the Maghreb Union, all of which were approved by the masses of the Basic Popular Congresses at ordinary and extraordinary session, are all wrong. One must not accomplish this in order to please the West and the colonialists and their likes. I repeat my thanks to those who caused the adoption of Resolution 748, because this resolution (?implied) that the rule of the people by the people is wrong; that the popular congresses and the revolutionary committees are wrong; that the General People's Congress—a congregation of the congresses, committees, unions, and associations—is wrong; that even the revolution is wrong; and those who sparked the revolution and proclaimed the first declaration and the people's power are wrong.

They must be brought to account, and they must be questioned or even brought to trial and indicted. As for what is being published these days in the AL-JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, even the name, is something that gives rise to bewilderment. This newspaper used to be the organ of the revolutionary committees, and those who wrote its articles were members of the revolutionary committees. They were supposed to be of a high degree of conviction and belief in the principles that were upheld by the great 1 September revolution. These voices are not afraid of what they say or advocate. At some point in the past they reached the point of becoming lecturers, speakers, and philosophers about the issue of Arab unity. We have read so many articles they have written across the various information media. They wrote very important articles, analyses, and debates about Arab unity and how it can be realized from the Ocean to the Gulf. How many times have we heard them say that the wealth of the Arabs is for the Arabs; the oil of the Arabs is for the Arabs and that it must be used for improving the lot of the Arab man wherever he may be?

I say without any shadow of a doubt that those who are giving us advice today are no different from those Arabs who championed the West and who went there and sat with them. They were more daring than you are, because they did all this openly, and they did not raise the slogans of Arab unity, nor did they stage marches or destroy the checkpoints and borders to proclaim unity or to merge with you.

AL-JAMAHIRIYAH adds: It has become clear that you are rich, that you own mineral and oil wealth, and that your financial situation is good. You should have used them to contribute to developing the Western economy and that of the colonialists, because you know very well through experience where the Arab funds obtained by the West are invested.

It has become clear beyond the shadow of any doubt that opening your markets to the garbage of the West and the colonialists would have been worthier than opening these markets to Arab products, O Libyans, who are feeling sorry for yourselves. I tell you that I did not ask you to talk on my behalf and to carry out pan-Arab actions in my name and feel sorry for me. I am capable of feeling sorry for any action I do not carry out myself, because you are not qualified to feel sorry for me or on my behalf.

I did not authorize you to send letters to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi apologizing to him and to talk to him in my name, because Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi believes in principles and values that he submitted to his people and which I heard directly from him and in which I believe. So, cease talking in my name on any issue. You made me doubt in my Islam, in my Arab belonging, and in my brothers. You and the likes of you spoiled Arab unity, because you are the ones who were present in the Arab areas following the scrapping of the borders, with your pockets full of money. You spent nights in their bars and concluded Arab trade transactions and took them through Arab countries to exempt them from customs duties and tax, and you falsified documents to make them look as if they had Arab origin.

Arabs Termed 'Useless'

LD1606150992 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 16 Jun (JANA)—Under the title: The Cup Has Overflown, today's AL-JAMAHIRIYAH publishes an article that reads:

Some have been surprised by this sudden burst of Arab anger that swept us, and they tried to engage in guesswork. But some have forgotten that our anger came [word indistinct] the brothers between us and God, between us and one of the pillars of our religion, between us and a religious duty, without which religion is not complete.

They hit our power, but we were not angry. They hit us when they sought, individually and in groups, to tarnish our beautiful image and good qualities. They hit us when they brought upon us the enmity of those who are close and those who are far away. We did not get angry though, but when they hit our religion, that was the straw that broke the camel's back.

The paper adds: When we sacrificed everything we have, opened up our land, and smashed the gates, making it the land of all Arabs, we did this for different Arabs, or this is how we wanted them; Arabs that we would find on our side in time of need before happy times. But as for the Arabs of today, we do not want them, because they are useless. We do not want Arabs who raise a hue and cry for the simple reason that the health authorities confiscated from them a quantity of Harissa [hot chilli paste made in Tunisia only] [word indistinct], or biscuits and chocolates that cause an allergy and stomach poisoning. They made up a story about this and asked for compensation and apologies and asked that this be not repeated.

Let the Libyans be poisoned and go to (?hell), so long as this brings benefit to the Arabs whom we have supported and who have supported the unbelievers. We do not want Arabs who make heroes of drug dealers when our police catch them. Their state (?intervened) at the highest level; their papers wrote about the bad treatment, and the whole story was that we confiscated the drugs and arrested the drug dealers.

We do not want Arabs who send us tricksters and swindlers, to the point where they have taught us bribery, dealing in hard currency, growing marijuana and manufacturing alcoholic drinks. We do not want Arabs who have become bridges for spies to us. We do not want Arabs who smuggle our tomatoes, cooking oil, sugar, and flour out, to the point where our treasury is now financing more than one country without return. We do not want Arabs who swamp our markets with mediocre goods and smuggle our goods out to Christian countries, to the point where anyone who has an occasion to do so from among us crosses the borders to buy our goods from their markets and carry these goods away like ants. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Chief of General Staff Comments on Defense Matters

LD1606120292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1011 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Kuwaiti, 16 Jun, KUNA—Staff Major General Jabir al- Khalid al-Sabah, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, denied the fact that some Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries are opposed to the idea of the creation of a unified army in the Gulf. He said in an interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT published here today that al-Jazirah Shield forces constitute the real core of the unified armed forces whose creation is being thoroughly examined by the specialized committees so that it achieves the aspired goals.

In reply to a question concerning the proposal related to the creation of unified Gulf forces and the Kuwaiti conception as regards this, Staff Major General Jabir al-Khalid indicated that the idea is excellent. The core for this is already there and there are committees to discuss it. There are intensified studies under way to form these armed forces in the future. This idea, submitted by Sultan Qabus, was crystallized in the Gulf summit held last December in Kuwait.

As regards the existence of some Gulf countries which oppose this project, he said that all these are formalities. Maybe some parties are not opposed to the project, but they need to examine some of its aspects or some ideas regarding their implementation. He stressed that all support the idea of forming a unified Gulf force which defends the GCC countries.

As to whether the Gulf states possess the human capabilities liable to help them form this unified army, he explained that in our times reliance in defense matters rests on quality not quantity. He pointed out that in building their armies, the Gulf states always focus on science as rely on advanced technology in armament, which is one of the issues being studied by experts in this field in the countries of the Council. He said that there are studies and meetings being undertaken by leaders and chiefs of staff in collaboration with the high commands to achieve such ambitions.

Staff Major Jabir Al-Khalid added that the GCC countries are in need of a force to protect them when necessary and pointed out that the security agreements signed by Kuwait have brought us friendly support. He said that the joint maneuvers of the Kuwaiti and U.S. Armies are still under way, are of an advanced capability and, in the final analysis, a scientific and field gain for the Kuwaiti soldier. He pointed out that reconstruction of the Kuwaiti Army is virtually finished, having gone through several phases in this respect. As to the return of a group of men of undetermined nationality to the Army, he said: We are working according to the decision of his royal highness the heir apparent, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, stipulating that each individual be given his rights; those who defended Kuwait will be returned to the Army, are still working, and deserve everything good they get; others who collaborated with the enemy must be punished."

Regarding the Damascus Declaration, he stressed military cooperation among Kuwait, Syria, and Egypt and said that contacts continue with brother chiefs of staff in the countries concerned.

Foreign Minister Departs for ICO Meeting

LD1706084992 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 June, KUNA—Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah left the country this morning for Istanbul where he will take part in the emergency meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization at the foreign minister level. The two-day meeting, which starts today, will discuss the deteriorating situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Shaykh Salim was seen off by acting Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Faysal al-Mutawwa' and the Turkish ambassador in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

German Report on American Jewish Contacts Denied

LD1606214592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Jeddah, 16 Jun (SPA)—A responsible source told SPA that the allegation made by Voice of Germany radio today about discussions between the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia] and an Arab state regarding the establishment of contacts with American Jews is absolutely untrue. The source added: The report was completely fabricated and we regret that such lies emanate from the Voice of Germany.

Fatwa on Assistance for Bosnian Muslims Issued

LD1606172592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1535 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Riyadh, 16 Jun (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, amir of the Riyadh region and chairman of the Higher Committee for collecting donations for Bosnia-Hercegovina, has received a letter from His Grace Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz, director general of the religious science research, deliverance of fatwa [religious ruling], [Islamic] call and guidance administrations. Here is the text of the letter:

I present to your highness the fatwa concerning our brothers in Bosnia-Hercegovina. Please peruse it and then order that it be published in the news media. May God bestow his thanks on your work, and redouble your reward [mathuba: reward bestowed by God for good deeds], and may He make our brothers in the republic of

Bosnia-Hercegovina and everywhere benefit from it. God is generous. Peace, blessings, and benedictions of God be upon you.

The director general of the religious science research, deliverance of fatwa, call and guidance administrations, 'Abd-al- 'Aziz Bin-'Abdallah Bin-Baz. Here is the text of the fatwa:

General Call For Help For Muslims in Bosnia-Hercegovina From 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Baz to whom this message may reach among Muslims, governments, and peoples, may Allah lead them to his grace and may He rely on them to triumph. Justice, peace, and God's mercy and blessings be upon you. Your Muslim brothers in Bosnia-Hercegovina are being persecuted, killed, and treated with all forms of torture and injustice by the enemies of God. You have an obligation to extend all forms of help to them: money, power and prayers acting on God's words: "The believers indeed are brothers" and "Help one another to piety and fearing God" and acting on the Prophet's words: "In clemency and sympathy, Muslims are like the body, as one organ is afflicted, the rest of the body rallies to it in insomnia and fever;" also in accordance with what has been established about the Prophet who supported whoever had been wronged—as he said: "The Muslim is brother to the Muslim, he shall not wrong or surrender him." [sentence as received]

In accordance with God's stipulations to support Muslims against their enemies, your brother Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia- Hercegovina are struggling against God's enemies, the Serbs and their supporters. All Muslims have an obligation to support them where possible, in accordance with God's verses and with the Prophet's sayings above and also with God's words: "Thou shalt do your utmost to heed God" and the Prophet's saying: "What I proscribe for you, you avoid, and what I command you to do, you do as much as possible." Of all people, they are the worthiest of help and zakat [religious charity] to support their struggle and help them cover their needs and stand firm before God's enemies. We advise all relief and other committees in Saudi Arabia to concern themselves with [Bosnia-Hercegovina Muslims] and to collect zakat and other donations for them.

May God ensure the success of Muslims, governments and peoples, for all good. May He ensure that, by them, his religion [Islam] is victorious, and that His enemies are defeated. May He help them in ensuring the victory of their brothers who are wronged everywhere. May He ensure the success of our brothers in the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina and elsewhere in everything that pleases Him. May He accord to them deep knowledge of the religion, bring them together on what is right, make the best of them rule them, guide their leaders, and may He prescribe for them victory over His enemies. He is almighty; He is in charge of this, and He can ensure it.

Peace, blessings and benedictions of God be upon you.

[Signed] The director general of the Islamic World League in Holy Mecca, and director general of religious science research, deliverance of fatwas, call, and guidance administrations in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Saddam Addresses Awards Ceremony 15 Jun

JN1606205392 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2010 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at ceremony to award medals to Iraqi officials and media institution leaders on 15 June; place not given—recorded]

[Text] Sometimes I impose on some Iraqis, but let them bear with me because I always believe that they can achieve more than is really in their power. Perhaps I impose on some Arabs, and I also say they must bear with me because I view them as being on the same level as their first forefathers and not as they see themselves, or as others see them. By others, I mean the enemies, or the tendentious, or narrow-minded and weak-spirited rulers.

That is why I tell you, my comrades and brothers in this modern corps, with all the meaning that the word modern implies in terms of development, not to mention the background embodied by our history, heritage, and our forefathers' glories, that everything we—including myself—carry out we later discover we could have done better. Irrespective of what is being said about you by the Arabs, your brothers, and by all the faithful—now the facts of the battle have started to unravel, one case after another, and are becoming more clear than at the beginning—no matter what description is given of you—a description of which we are proud when it is made by the faithful—I say that the Iraqis and Iraq can play a bigger and more enhanced role.

I understand now in a more accurate manner that the individual who is involved in battle will not realize how rigorous it is until the battle stops. I now understand how burdensome the battle was on you. Perhaps I realize this more than during the fighting. During the fighting I used to watch Iraqi women draw water from the streams between two streets, and perhaps they learned to do this from their mothers or grandmothers. In any case, they started to draw water from the stream. What stream? It is not a stream located between two valleys, or two plains, or in a low land in the desert, but from between two streets. The women carry the water from between two streets, with all the dirt and pollution it contains.

I was aware of what all these things mean. I used to see Iraqi women shopping at the market who were in a difficult condition. I saw this. I was not only running the operations from the headquarters, but also used to walk in the streets and see with my eyes in order to appreciate things. Despite all this, I was concentrating on how the battle would go. This was more important than concentrating on these details to the point of stopping at them. Now, however, we are able to pause, to recall all these details, and understand what human, psychological, and military weight they carry with every one of our comrades in the Armed Forces and every individual person. However, does this weigh more than the Iraqis can bear, or more correctly, is it not their load? The answer is no; I still believe that it is less than their load.

When speaking about the vanguard and pioneers we speak about the concepts of the Arab revolution as a mission in which anything that is inflicted on him is less than the load, except the fear of God [words indistinct] and fear that he may have gone astray. Only this situation is greater than the Iraqi human being can bear, anything other than this [words indistinct]. I say that I still believe that what has befallen you is less than your load. This means that you can bear it and bear what is more than this, in this description. As for he who abandons this description, it is natural for him not to be able to bear the weight of a straw, but when it comes to the memory [word indistinct] which you know, the faithful place you at the forefront and you have been made their ideal from the farthest west to the farthest east in the Arab world, and from the closest point of the Islamic lands to the farthest.

These are facts. Some of you may not have had the chance to make contact with the Arabs or the Muslims or with humanity in France, with humanity in the United States itself, or with humanity in Britain, to see what description you are given.

Everyone who looks into things... [changes thought] If that confrontation had taken place between the Soviet Union and the United States before the situation in the former Soviet Union turned into what it is now, one might look at things differently. One might view this as something expected, to have a victor and a vanquished between two sides who have equal technical capabilities and a readiness for such a duty. The readiness for such a possibility may be scores of years old, but to have things develop the way they did, and to see the Soviet Union suddenly falling to the position it is in now and the United States remaining on the top with all its weight, which we used to hear about and which we had to deal with, and to see the United States massing its troops—thanks to the treachery of the traitors—on the land of sanctities and not daring to open fire against Iraq until it mobilized 28 armies and 32 states, this was an extraordinary case and beyond all imagination, not only by our standards which we have talked about, but also by the standards of both the old and modern worlds.

This was the only superpower according to the standards of today's world concerning a superpower or the superpower. Today's world of politics is different from that which existed 20 years ago; its individuals show even more falsehood than the reactionary politicians of the 1950's.

I say this single superpower did not attack Iraq until it massed 27 armies next to its own, adding up to 28, and 32 states. It was number 33. Did this happened just like that, without the will of God Almighty? The confrontation did not take place with the Soviet Union and its allies, which were equal to the United States. Instead, the United States and its official allies, as well as the Arabs who betrayed and those in the world who have gone weak or colluded with it, entered with such an army, with such a number of armies and states, against a single country with a population of 18 million people, who

have both strong and weak points, and a country that is described as a Third World country, which it is.

Did such a paradox occur just like that, simply because America felt that it needed this great number to attack us? Or is it God's will for a greater matter, greater than this direct matter with which we have dealt and that happened to us?

How can might be defeated while—in accordance with the traditional criteria—this might is more capable than the other party and does not require great effort to defeat it? This is what happened. Thirty-three states and 28 armies stood in the face of one army and one state, regardless of other matters.

If we put this picture alone before the American soldier who came and fired on us, how would he deal with it? If any one of you were to put this picture before an American soldier and discuss it with him, he would see which one of the two is proud and which one shows that faith is deeply rooted and stronger in his heart, mind, and conscience than it is in the other. Is it the American or the simple Iraqi citizen? Can we not derive great pride from this for all the believers, not just for the Iraqis, the Arabs, or the Muslims?

I firmly believe in my deep conscience that God wanted this paradox to take this form. If another superpower had fought America there would be no paradox, but this is the paradox: Everyone comes to kill Iraq, and Iraq remained alive, healthy, and full of determination, faith, sacrifice, work, and construction.

The other paradox—or the other exposition through which Almighty God wants to expose the traitors, the plotters, and the aggressive ones—was that they maintained the slogan of war for Kuwait. Had they, for example, said that their slogan was to drive the Iraqis out of Kuwait—which was what they claimed; they did not read the old history, they said: Drive the Iraqis from Kuwait—now that the battle is over, they should have said: We will lift the siege, and everything will return to normal. Had they done so, do you believe that the Iraqis would have discovered the meaning and value of their stand, the value of their acts, and the meaning of this historical paradox? Would the world have discovered this? The answer surely is known to all of you. It is clear that the world would not have discovered the contradictions between the words and deeds of those who claim to be the masters of the world.

The world would not have discovered the law of faith, which radiates from Baghdad, and the meaning on which this law is based.

The duel could have been called a fight that took place, and a reprisal campaign launched by the big ones against the little ones which has taken place and is over now. However, those who call themselves big continue to raise the slogans of the duel. Here lies the deepest meaning, with all the depth we see, of the military duel of we spoke. The slogans continue—starting with toppling the regime—and their claims that they can enter Baghdad at any time, the buildup in the north, the conspiracy, and the continuation of the siege, and the chapter of treachery and treason which they and the officials in Iran had planned. What was your reply?

Many people fight in battle, but they do not fight equally. What proves that you have been at a high level of readiness to sacrifice and your high human nature is your continued endurance of the siege as a great people, as if history repeats itself, as the saying goes. It is a siege; they say that it is a siege that includes everything except food. Then where is the food? I say that it is a siege that includes food and medicines in the first place because how can he who has no money buy his food? But how can all this take place? Has all this taken place just because someone tells you that this person is intelligent, or that this or that comrade and minister or this director general is patient and excellent? All these things exist. So long as the people have faith, then intelligence is not only the sum of the brain's abilities, but also the outcome of the brain's interaction with the rays of faith.

Intelligence is the result of the mind's interaction with the rays of faith; this always gives rise to creativity. Is this only a matter of intelligence, perseverance, valor, and so forth? Let me tell you that I do not believe this myself; I do not think so. Let us take the example of a burned-out factory, which was turned into rubble. The young men [words indistinct] and talk about this. They say: A decision has been made, and we have confidence in God and ourselves. We say: God help them, they will execute that decision. The young men may be afraid at the beginning, but when you talk to them, they will have greater resolve and enter that factory. Step by step, the factory is rebuilt as it was before, or even better than it was before.

The slogan we are raising in the reconstruction campaign is to rebuild everything better than it was before, and if that is not possible, then to rebuild it just as good as it was.

Imagine a Third World country with 18 million people who have both weak and strong points. The enemy turns all centers of life in that country into burned-out rubble and imposes a siege on it. Now that country comes out with the slogan of a comprehensive, deep, and strong counteroffensive, starts rebuilding, and starts the counteroffensive in such a way. Now you can see how the country is doing.

Was this a coincidence? If the blockade had been terminated the moment the Army left Kuwait, would what had been destroyed have been rebuilt in such record time, with such a low cost for Iraq, and with Iraqi hands? Would we have been able to gain this great experience in building a country destined to be great in its faith, God willing?

This was the other paradox. The world has seen you fighting against 28 armies and 33 states. This is the official figure, the official figure, but Gorbachev now is

receiving a $35,000 reward in Israel; $35,000! See how cheap leadership is! What a pity! See how cheap leadership is when it can be bought with money? Only $35,000. Now with Gorbachev's visit to Israel, another aspect of the game which was not known before has been revealed. The whole scenario has been revealed. What a cheap price!

He who adopts a constant stand during the battle of the siege is a son of the Mother of Battles. As long as the siege is continuing, the Mother of Battles is continuing. He who adopts a firm national and honorable stand during the battle of the continued siege is the son of the Mother of Battles. He who fails.... [changes thought] We beseech God Almighty and we hope that no Iraqi will fail to be a son of the Mother of Battles. This is because this battle will rewrite all of history. You will see. You have already begun to see that the effects of this battle will not be confined to national, pan-Arab, and Islamic levels. Rather, its effects will be general and comprehensive.

Had the battle taken place between America and its allies on the one hand and the Soviet Union and its allies on the other, had any of these two sides prevailed, or had the first, second, or third round of the battle ended with a stalemate, the world would have benefited nothing. Rather, that would have been more harmful for the world, in terms of thought, faith, and action. However, the entire battle took place against a state which they deem to be a small state. I deem this figure [Iraq's population of 18 million] to be sufficient on the domestic level, and I deem the current Arab population to be enough on the pan-Arab level. However, they view us as a small state. In accordance with traditional calculations, it is a small state with a known area and a population of 18 million. It is a Third World country which imports everything—even onions—and can be denied everything, even water with a certain degree at a certain stage. Nevertheless, life in this country has continued unceasingly. Are these merely the acts of human beings? By any standard, this is great achievement.

As comrade Latif Nusayyif Jasim said a short while ago, the greatness of history is measured by its bitterness. All the groans of the children who died as a result of the blockade and food and medicine shortages cause deep wounds in each one of our hearts. However, at the same time, a crescent is drawn in the sky of great history when every child or elderly person dies as a result of the food or medicine scarcity. For each one of them, a shining star is drawn in the sky of history. However, this leaves a scar in our hearts—a scar which we hope, God willing, will not turn into a scar of rancor against the perpetrators, unless God so wishes.

In all their actions, they want you to deviate from your principles. Besides disappointment, they hate you as a result of their feeling of inferiority. This particularly applies to the traitors who betrayed their nation and people. However, with the help of God, in addition to your record, history will be shining. The sun has risen, God willing. [applause]

Saddam Honors Writers, Artists, Journalists

JN1506185592 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today honored comrades Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad and Nuri Faysal Shahir, members of the Iraq Command [of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party] with two medals of valor for each of them. His excellency also honored Ahmad Husayn, Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, and Latif Nusayyif Jasim with two medals of high merit for each of them. The medals were granted for the role they had played in defending great Iraq and its people during the American-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against our country and during the chapter of treason and treachery within the aggression.

The leader president, may God protect him, also honored a number of media institution leaders, workers in the various media components, and creative writers, poets, and artists with medals of high merit for their roles in the Mother of Battles.

During the medal-award ceremony, the leader president made a valuable speech about the battle of our Iraqi people against their enemies during the stage of armed confrontation and during the current point in time, when the enemies are continuing to impose an unjust embargo on our great people.

We draw the attention of viewers, listeners, and readers to the fact that the text of the leader president's speech will be broadcast tomorrow [16 June], and that the national newspapers will publish the text in their Wednesday [17 June] issues, God willing.

*Taha Yasin Ramadan on Embargo, Kurdish Elections

92AE0415A Baghdad ALIF BA in Arabic 20 May 92 pp 8-9

[Interview With Taha Yasin Ramadan, Vice President and Revolutionary Command Council Member, by Hamid 'Abdallah; date and place not given: "Taha Yasin Ramadan Speaks to ALIF BA on Hot Issues: Embargo, Elections in North Iraq, Borders With Kuwait, Relations With Syria, Oil Exports, Future of Iraq's Industry"]

[Text] While preparing to interview Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Revolutionary Command Council member and vice president of the republic, we had numerous pivotal issues to consider and numerous questions to ask, and we didn't imagine that a one- or two-hour interview would enrich the issues we wished to discuss with his excellency the vice president. There are developments and changes at all domestic, Arab, and international levels. As we were conducting our interview, a plot was being concocted in the northern part of the country, where the so-called Kurdish Parties Front election was being held with the exposed supervision and intervention of the United States and the aggression countries.

Should we give attention to one focal point at the expense of another, or to one issue at the expense of another?

We put our questions to his excellency the vice president of the republic, who was generous enough to answer in this interview all that was on our mind.

['Abdallah] Now that two years have lapsed on the embargo imposed on Iraq, are there doors on which Iraq hasn't yet knocked to alleviate or lift this embargo, and do you see an end to the embargo in the foreseeable future?

[Ramadan] It is well-known that the embargo is an unjust decision imposed by the United States in the Security Council's name. It is well-known that, with its current makeup, the Security Council is under the absolute beck and call of the United States, Britain, and France. Even though two years have lapsed on the embargo, and even though the justifications for this embargo have disappeared, the embargo hasn't been alleviated in any way, no matter how small. Even our aircraft haven't been allowed to fly. Therefore, the embargo reflects accurately the schemes of the parties that imposed it. It has nothing to do with the Kuwait issue, which has been used as a tattered pretext for the military aggression and for maintaining and perpetuating the embargo. Therefore, I say that, by virtue of its precise awareness of the nature of the Security Council's makeup, Iraq's leadership doesn't hope or trust that the council will issue a resolution lifting the embargo.

They have been using feeble pretexts to perpetuate the embargo. Resolution 661 points out clearly that the embargo is tied to the presence of Iraqi forces in Kuwait. What is the justification for its continuation, since Iraq has withdrawn? They say that the embargo is tied to the content of Resolution 687. It is well-known that this resolution incorporates complex, thorny, and time-consuming steps. Iraq has implemented all paragraphs and provisions of the resolution. So is it permissible to tie the starvation of an entire people to a technical mechanism for the implementation of a certain resolution? Moreover, Iraq has implemented what is required of it in Resolution 687. Has the embargo been alleviated, even slightly? The answer is no. We have no hope that the Security Council will lift the embargo, but we are confident that our people's steadfastness, patience, strong will, belief in the inevitability of their victory, and their support for their leadership will shatter the embargo. As His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has asserted, the embargo will be eroded, whether the aggressors like it or not. We believe that every accomplishment made by Iraq in the industrial or agricultural sector, every step with which the Iraqi family responds to plan its life in a manner compatible with the extraordinary circumstances being experienced by the country, and every innovation devised by the enlightened Iraqi intellect in any sector is tantamount to a steady and serious step on the path of ending and shredding the embargo.

['Abdallah] A storm was created recently over al-Athir installation. Iraq has pointed out the possibility of using it for civilian industries, but they [the UN] have insisted on demolishing it. Has the installation, including its buildings, actually been demolished?

[Ramadan] On the explicit and exposed instruction of the United States, the Security Council is causing problems with the purpose of creating superficial justifications for perpetuating the embargo. What has been raised regarding al-Athir installation is one of these "lies." I can say that al-Athir installation, including its parts that could be used for civilian industries, has been demolished completely. The objective behind this is obvious: to destroy anything that is likely to enable Iraq to move a single step forward. They believe that impeding Iraq's progress, even for a single day, accomplishes an important objective for them. The leadership has dealt with this issue on the basis of foiling the enemies' opportunity and of ripping apart all the covers that the enemies could use to harm the Iraqi people.

['Abdallah] Iraq has recently announced industrial accomplishments which have drawn the attention of observers. How does the world view this?

[Ramadan] Iraq hasn't capitulated to the aggression countries even though it is implementing resolutions issued by these countries under the name of the United Nations. Iraq would rather fight a hundred times and not capitulate when the issue concerns its sovereignty and independence and the happiness and progress of its people. We are aware that the aggression countries are filled with hatred for any additional step that Iraq takes toward challenging and defying the embargo. These countries had hoped that under the embargo's impact, Iraq would declare its surrender to the aggression objectives as of the first day, first, week, or first month.

Just the fact of the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of an embargo unprecedented in history fills the enemies' hearts with malice and wrath. What is more important to us is to develop the Iraqi citizen in a way that makes them hate him even more—a citizen who is confident of himself, his abilities, and his future and a citizen who does what he wants without reliance on the foreigner. This is because one of the most significant objectives of the aggression is to implant disappointment, frustration, and weakness in the citizen's soul. The civilian industry's achievement of the announced accomplishment strengthens the Iraqi citizen's confidence in himself, his people, and his leadership.

['Abdallah] Do you think that Iraq will become an advanced industrial country in the post-embargo phase?

[Ramadan] In 1977, Iraq announced, through President Leader Saddam Husayn, that it would become an industrial country within a decade. It has made great strides in

this regard. The coming phase will see major development in this area. Iraq will become an influential industrial country with its own expertise and with the capabilities of its own citizens, not with the support and expertise of foreign firms.

['Abdallah] While we conduct this interview with your excellency, an attempt is being made in North Iraq to hold the so-called Kurdish Parties Front election under the exposed supervision of hostile circles. What are the objectives of this election?

[Ramadan] The embargo and the Kurdish issue are two cards being used by the United States and the aggression countries to weaken Iraq. But without embarking on details of the Kurdish elections, I say that the rebellion leaders themselves, including Mas'ud Barzani personally, have stated that the United States isn't concerned with the Kurds' rights. We have a proof attesting to the truth. Haven't the United States and the aggression countries provided the Turkish Army with the umbrella to crush the Kurds? Where is the U.S. concern for Kurdish rights?

Kurdish elements that have agreed to be subservient lackeys of the foreigner declare frankly that they are tied to the foreigner. In their meetings with Kurdish citizens, these elements speak of their relations with the Americans and the British and reassure them with the presence of the aggression armies that protect them. I find that cooperating with the foreigners who have fought us is easier than cooperating with those who have sold themselves to the foreigner and established a serious and disgraceful precedent. In the northern part of the country, they are discussing with the Americans and the Mosad how to tear Iraq apart. Is this the right way to attain the Kurds' rights? We are confident that the position of the majority of our Kurdish people will be embodied in boycotting these elections and, consequently, in carrying arms against the suspect agents.

['Abdallah] What point have the Iraqi-UN negotiations on Iraqi oil exports reached?

[Ramadan] The outcome of these negotiations is governed by the aggressive U.S. tendency that seeks to maintain the embargo against Iraq. The Iraqi delegation had agreed with the UN technical delegation on 90 percent of the points involved. But as soon as the UN delegation went back, numerous points on which agreement had already been reached were changed under U.S., French, and British pressure. All they want is to intervene in Iraq's affairs to undermine Iraq's sovereignty. We say that no Iraqi citizen will accept sustenance if it is gotten at the expense of the country's sovereignty and dignity.

['Abdallah] What is your comment on the steps to delineate the borders with Kuwait and the statements of the rulers imposed on Kuwait?

[Ramadan] Personally, I don't view the rulers imposed on Kuwait as responsible people. I don't even see in them the minimal degree of dignity or human value. They say what they are instructed to say. They have agreed to be lackeys for the foreigner and they have frankly disavowed Arabs and Arabism. I say on this occasion that the Kuwait-Iraq border issue is an old colonialist game, in which Britain engaged in the 1920s. Neither the technical committees nor the printed papers dispatched by the UN can change the facts. History has known forms of land usurpation and occupation which reached the limit of imposing [rigged] parliaments to ratify those forms. But the peoples have shredded them, and the entire world knows that what the Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Committee has done is unjust and a part of the objectives of the aggression countries. Those who have been imposed as rulers over Kuwait have no will and no opinion on this issue.

['Abdallah] Don't you think that the Arab governments' adherence to the embargo imposed on Iraq is no longer justifiable, now that the objectives of the plot have been clearly exposed?

[Ramadan] The Arab governments' adherence to the embargo, as of the day it was imposed, is tantamount to a violation of the minimal degree of pan-Arab commitment and of the Arab charters and bonds. But now that all veils, masks, and justifications have been ripped apart, any Arab government that continues to observe the embargo shoulders a greater responsibility than the responsibility of those who have perpetrated the embargo crime.

An Arab ruler who doesn't want us to be convinced that he is a part of the plot, and that he is contributing directly to starving Iraq's people, must express his position promptly and must refuse to obey the embargo and Washington's orders.

I wish to ask here: What if the Arab countries, or some of them, violated the embargo?

Will the United States strike them? The answer is no. But some rulers don't wish to be an obstacle in the face of the U.S. schemes. Or let's just say that they don't want to annoy their American masters.

['Abdallah] There has been increasing talk recently about a Syrian rapprochement toward Baghdad. What is the true nature and objective of this rapprochement?

[Ramadan] This talk is groundless and its source is Syrian intelligence. It is a political game that fools nobody. When Syria's ruler became certain that what he had expected to get as a price for his participation in the aggression against Iraq didn't materialize, he began to raise the slogan of rapprochement with Iraq.

Where is this rapprochement, when Syria's ruler sent 35,000 Syrian troops to commit aggression against Iraq?

Where is this Syrian rapprochement with Iraq, when Syria's borders are sealed more tightly in the face of the Iraqi people than any other borders? It is a game whose objective is to commit blackmail and to improve the

value of Syrian currency in the eyes of the midgets ruling the Arab Gulf states. [Boxed item, p 9]

The Vice President Lauds ALIF BA as ALIF BA of 'Daring and Honesty'

During our interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, the Revolutionary Command Council member and vice president of the republic, he was eager to express his observation on ALIF BA on the occasion of the magazine's 24th anniversary. His Excellency Ramadan said:

"Even though the press industry is one of the complex industries, in which speed, accuracy, and keeping abreast of developments are combined, and even though it isn't an easy thing to maintain a balanced standard for any newspaper or magazine, I have found that ALIF BA has retained its brilliance and hasn't retreated from its standard. This is considered a major success for any publication. I can also say that ALIF BA has become an Arab magazine, not with its circulation dimensions, but with its method and tendency. I hope that it will go beyond [this] to become an international magazine. What adds an element of strength and attraction to the press is that it publishes on its pages opinion and counter-opinion. I have felt this tendency in ALIF BA, which isn't reluctant to publish any opinion, comment on an opinion, or article it has published on its pages. We need daring in our press, but it must be honest and balanced, because daring not coupled with honesty turns into demagoguery. I have found both daring and honesty in what ALIF BA publishes. On the anniversary of its publication, I wish ALIF BA prosperity." [end boxed item]

Further Reportage on Opposition Groups, Conference

Talabani on Negotiations With Baghdad

PM1606143292 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Jun 92 p 14

[Part two of interview with Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, by 'Adnan Husayn in Shaqlawah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] The Iraqi regime will not agree to implement the plans you talked about. And given the lack of prospects for a settlement with him and the possibility of the international protection umbrella not being extended, how can the Kurdish administration implement these plans? And what is your self-defense capability?

[Talabani] Before talking about the self-defense capability, I would like to refer to two points which I consider to be important. First, that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's assessments have been proved correct and realistic. We said that this government would not agree even to our minimum rights and demands. We said that this dictatorship was—by virtue of its nature—historically incapable of resolving the Kurdish question. We said that, even when that dictatorship treats the Kurdish side courteously, its aim is to divide Kurdish national ranks. And the Baghdad dictatorship revealed its true face when it demanded, during the election process, the heads of Barzani and Talabani, when in the past it used to concentrate its fire on Talabani alone.

The second point which I would like to mention concerns the subject of international protection. I believe that the allies will extend their forces' presence in Turkey indefinitely. And there are reports that Turkey has agreed to that in principle. But despite this, I am convinced that the new Kurdish administration must work to create self-defense forces. This is because we cannot in the end rely on the outside in the economic or human sphere, or to provide security for us. A year ago the Patriotic Union issued the slogan: "We cannot accept that Kurdistan be turned into a permanent refugee camp or that the Kurdish people be turned into beggars." And in addition to that slogan we now issue the slogan: "We cannot accept that Kurdistan be without self-defense," always relying on the outside. The self-defense factor can be secured by uniting the peshmerga forces with a few thousand organized and trained fighters—a reasonable number—who are equipped with the necessary weapons, whether from the weapons available in Kurdistan or weapons supplied by friends. By providing antitank and air defense weapons we can secure security cover for Iraqi Kurdistan and defend ourselves. Furthermore, regional and international issues, especially Middle Eastern issues, are now linked. So given that Saddam Husayn's aggression against Kuwait affected the regional and international situations, and that aggression led to the emergence of a situation in Iraq which we exploited to establish a free local administration, none of the region's states can allow the Iraqi regime to launch a new aggression against Kurdistan. And I believe that the Iraqi dictatorship is aware of and fears this fact, which is why it is not launching a war against us. I believe that peace in Kurdistan will continue, not because Saddam Husayn has given up his aggressiveness and thirst for wars, but because he is not capable of waging a war, because he is facing a domestic dilemma: economic, social, political, and military crises... the Iraqi Army's morale is low, not because that Army lacks valor, but because the Iraqi Army is aware of the nature of the reckless dictator who is leading Iraq from one catastrophe to another, from one tragedy to another, and from a crushing 30-year civil war to a crazy and criminal eight-year war with Iran, and then to an evil aggression against small, peaceful Kuwait which offered him a great deal. [passage omitted]

[Husayn] The [Kurdistan] Front's negotiations with the Iraqi Government were suspended pending the results of the elections. If the government refuses to resume the negotiations with the institutions to be established by you later—and it regarded your elections as illegal beforehand—what is the next step?

[Talabani] The next step is that, if the government wants to resume the negotiations, it must negotiate with the regional Kurdish government. The parliament will form a government. It will be empowered to negotiate. But the

Iraqi Government refuses to recognize the elections and their results, so it is the one refusing to resume the negotiations. And I believe that it is incumbent on us to turn Kurdistan into an oasis for democracy. That oasis should provide protection for Iraqis and the Iraqi opposition forces, which we hope will have a presence in Kurdistan and enjoy the right to exercise political and information activity. And the Iraqi opposition's next conference must be made a success.

We are working for a democratic Iraq in which democratic rights and freedoms are available for all, including Kurds and Arabs. We cannot in any way ignore the historical and objective facts about the existence of strong and deep-rooted ties between Arabs and Kurds-...between the two fraternal Arab and Kurdish nations. And when we succeed in toppling the dictatorship and establishing democracy all our problems will end.

[Husayn] Are we to understand from this that you are appealing to the unified Iraqi opposition forces abroad to move into the country, to this liberated part of Iraq?

[Talabani] In my name and in the name of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan I say: Yes, we can regard that as an appeal. But there must be a decision from the government and the parliament. Actually during the election period we received a number of Iraqi opposition figures here. We welcomed them and urged them to return quickly to the homeland.

[Husayn] Are we also to understand that it is now possible to convene the Iraqi opposition's second conference in Kurdistan?

[Talabani] I believe it is. But the decision on this should be taken by the Kurdistan Front, the parliament, and the government. [passage omitted]

Kurdish 'Executive Council' Renamed

NC1606181992 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Irbil has reported that the Kurdistan National Council held two separate sessions in Irbil today. The first, three-hour session was held at 0900 and the second session was held 1500-1830.

The Council's deliberations produced the following resolutions:

1. The name of the Executive Council has been officially changed to the Ministerial Council [Majlis al-Wuzara'] of the Kurdistan region;

2. A three-member delegation has been formed. The three members represent the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Kurdish Democratic Party, and the Assyrians. The delegation soon will visit most of the European countries to gain international support for the National Council and to raise funds in support of our Kurdish people, and;

3. Fifteen different committees have been formed, each specializing in Kurdistan affairs.

It is hoped that the Ministerial Council of the Kurdistan region will convene under brother Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum within the next few days. Brother Dr. Ma'sum is continuing his diligent efforts to form the Ministerial Council after consulting with the political parties.

The Kurdistan National Council held two separate sessions yesterday. The Council discussed the bylaws and elected a committee to coordinate with and contact the Kurdistan Front's political leadership to ensure the monthly salaries of the employees and teachers in Kurdistan due to their difficult living conditions.

Groups in Damascus Boycott Conference

JN1706071592 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] In Damascus, the Iraqi opposition's Joint Action Committee has said that it is boycotting the Iraqi opposition meeting which began in Vienna yesterday. In its statement, the committee, which includes the most prominent opposition parties, denied any connection with the Vienna conference saying that the general conference should in fact include all the Iraqi opposition factions and express the aspirations of the minority [as heard] which aims to get rid of the dictatorial regime.

At the conclusion of the first day of the Iraqi national conference, which will continue its work until next Friday, a spokesman for the conference said in Vienna that the conference is the most important one since the 1991 popular uprising in Iraq and the Kurdish elections which were held last month.

Jalal Talabani, leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said that a regional government will be formed in the Kurdish areas in northern Iraq within the next few weeks. Talabani, who is participating in the Vienna conference, noted that his party aims at establishing democracy in Iraq and acquiring the right of self-determination for the Kurdish people in Iraq.

Regime Gunboats Destroyed in Marshes

NC1606165592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] sources have said that opposition forces recently destroyed several regime gunboats in the southern marshlands. The sources added that the opposition forces killed six troops, including two officers.

The SAIRI sources said that the popular forces attacked a regime column on the al-Rumaylah-al-Basrah road, killing a number of troops and seizing quantities of weapons and hardware.

Baghdad-al-Basrah Flights Suspended

JN1606181192 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 15 Jun 92 p 8

[By Hadi Mahmud]

[Text] AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned that Baghdad-al-Basrah flights by Iraqi Airways have been stopped for maintenance purposes as of today, Monday, 15 June 1992, until further notice.

AL-JUMHURIYAH has tried to contact a responsible source at the airline or their Director General Nur-al-Din al-Safi to determine how long the maintenance operations will take, but due to the 'Id holiday, contact was not possible.

Sultan Qabus Congratulates Saddam on 'Id al-Adha

JN1606114492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, congratulating him on the blessed 'Id al-Adha. Following is the text of the cable:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

His Excellency Brother Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic of Iraq. On the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha and the new pilgrimage days, we are pleased to send to you our best wishes and regards along with our personal wishes for your good health and happiness and prosperity and progress for the fraternal people of your country.

We ask God almighty that this occasion returns next year to find you and all the Arab and Islamic peoples living in happiness and prosperity and that all our days will be happy occasions in which our people's aspirations for glory, strength, prosperity, and peace will be realized. May God respond to our prayers.

We wish you many happy returns. Please accept our heartfelt greetings.

Your Brother, Qabus Bin-Sa'd.

PRC Envoy 'Categorically' Denies Sale of Weapons

TA1606112592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The newly arrived Chinese ambassador categorically denies reports that the PRC supplies Middle East countries with nuclear weapons. As for other weapons, he says, the PRC does not intend to upset the balance of power in the Middle East. The PRC ambassador was hosted by the Haifa Municipality today. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports:

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] The new PRC ambassador, Lin Zhen, who is apparently unaccustomed to Western-style attacks by journalists who strike directly at the underbelly of relations between the two countries, gives terse replies to questions he does not like, clearly demonstrating his displeasure.

Is there truth in the recent reports that China supplies Middle East countries—Iran and perhaps Syria—with weapons? Does China plan to take Russia's place in this sphere?

[Lin, in English] We are not doing many things in this field, and I don't think this will upset the balance of the weaponry in this region.

[Schmerling translates and continues] He adds: We strive to peace and stability in this region.

The next question really angers the ambassador. Does China supply Arab countries with nuclear weapons?

[Lin, in English] It is nonsense. China never supplies any nuclear weapons to any country.

[Schmerling translates and continues] At this point, the ambassador turns angrily to his host, Haifa Mayor Arye Gur'el, remarking: I thought I was invited to a reception. I did not know it was a news conference.

The other subjects, however—future economic ties and possibly cultural ties between China and Israel—were definitely more to his liking. He says: Endless possibilities for business and economic ties have arisen. I have not finalized any ideas in this field, but the start is very encouraging.

The actual reason for Lin Zhen's visit to Haifa was the decision to establish a twin cities pact—the first of its kind—between Haifa and the great Chinese port, Shanghai. [end recording]

Gorbachev Cites Danger of 'Dictatorship' in Russia

TA1606175592 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Report by foreign news editor Itay Engel on interview with Mikhail Gorbachev on 16 June; place not given; passages with Gorbachev's remarks in Russian omitted—recorded]

[Text] Our first question dealt with internal developments in Russia. Yesterday, President Boris Yeltsin appointed a new prime minister, Yegor Gaydar, who is closely identified with the radical reforms now being adopted in the Russian economy. Yeltsin has also clearly stated that within a month he will privatize all the failing government plants.

Mikhail Gorbachev expressed some reservations about the way these reforms are being implemented. After clarifying that he supported the process and even believed it should be expedited, he said he was disturbed by the fact that the Russian people were not consulted enough in the decisionmaking process and that they did not always understand the issues or why they deserved all this hardship.

The situation in Russia and the public mood are very tense right now, Gorbachev said. Both new and veteran cabinet members are extremely fearful of crossing what the public considers red lines. Gorbachev estimated that if the public's reaction was not sufficiently taken into account, the social discontent would eventually lead to an explosion. Gorbachev criticized the current government for not doing enough to inform the people of the impending hardships the future holds and of the government's clear plans for the future. The people have been stoic, he said, but they are hanging on with their last ounce of strength. Gorbachev warned that if the situation blew out of control, it could mean the end of the reforms, the end of the democratization process, and perhaps even the return of dictatorship.

Perhaps this is an unfair question, we said, but if you had known seven years ago that the democratization process you launched would lead to the current situation, which from various aspects is a very difficult one—would you have behaved differently? Do you have any regrets?

The changes I introduced, Gorbachev said, had to be implemented in any case because the country was on the edge of a precipice. Had I not initiated the reforms, the situation would have exploded in any case, he asserted, and the situation would only have become worse and more uncontrollable. Therefore, Gorbachev told us, I would have acted in exactly the same way, but—with the benefit of hindsight—I would have taken into account certain things I had not previously considered. One, the possibility of a putsch. I could have prevented it had I taken care in advance to unite all the democratic forces in the country and to canvass widespread support for the reforms. Time would thus not have been wasted. The second thing I would have done was to first guarantee a steady supply of food for the population during the entire reform process. This, apparently, is the major problem, and this is what I would have taken care of first if I had to start everything over again from the beginning. The reforms themselves, he stressed, had to be implemented.

Right now we are in the midst of an election campaign, we told Gorbachev. The major debate between the two candidates for prime minister takes place today. Perhaps

you would like, Mr. Gorbachev, we asked, as the head of the Gorbachev Institute and leaving politics aside, to give our next prime minister some advice on leadership? Some words of advice or perhaps some words of caution?

I think that my own personal experience as well as that of my colleagues, whose careers I follow with interest, permit me to draw one conclusion, aside from which nothing is important. When you make certain plans and decisions, which the majority of the public support, you can confidently govern your society and succeed. Therefore, every leader should be in touch with his people's feelings as much as possible, because otherwise, your exhortations and proposals will not be understood and you will fail dismally as a leader.

This, then, was Mikhail Gorbachev's message to Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin. At the conclusion of the interview, Gorbachev told IDF Radio listeners that he had been happy to meet the representatives of the Israeli people and that he wished the Israeli people all the best.

U.S. Help Needed for Attacks on Nuclear Targets

TA1606111892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 92 p A1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "Extensive Action Against Arab Nuclear Installations Possible Only With U.S. Consent"]

[Text] It is highly doubtful, in the military sense, that the 1981 operation in which the Iraqi reactor was blown up can be repeated with equal effortlessness against an Arab country or against Iran, should one of them begin nuclear activity.

Not only will distances be greater—from Algeria to Iran—and routes more hazardous, the Arabs, too, have learned their lessons from the 1981 event, and they will be able to conceal their nuclear activities if they so wish.

It is likewise doubtful whether Israel should pledge to stop Arab nuclear activities by force, as implied by the remarks of Major General Herzl Bodinger, the Air Force commander. It should be remembered that, contrary to 1981, many Arab countries now have an instant retaliation capability made up of surface-to-surface missiles which could be directed at the Israeli home front.

In fact, an extensive operation against Arab nuclear installations will be possible only if the United States buckles down to the task and rounds up a few of its partners.

And yet, even in the case of Iraq, the United States and its allies were unable to eliminate its nuclear infrastructure by war. They resorted to the United Nations, whose teams took many months to carry out wide-ranging inspection tasks and blow up installations. Even now, it is not certain that the teams have managed to dispose of everything that had to be disposed of and that Iraq will not revert to its evil ways when the UN inspection is concluded.

Recent reports may have created the false impression that a turnabout has taken place in the balance of power in the region. The actual situation is different, particularly with respect to Syria. Damascus has lost its strategic partner, the Soviet Union; unlike in the past, it cannot look to Iraq for help, and it is doubtful whether Damascus will be able to recruit another Arab partner for a military confrontation with Israel.

It should be further remembered that despite the recent bout of arms procurement, Syria encounters difficulties in buying very sophisticated equipment: Many markets are closed to it, and it has difficulties in paying off debts for its already purchased weapons. It is true that its surface-to-surface missiles pose a danger to the Israeli home front, but their primary purpose is to deter Israel from launching a war.

Thus, all the signs show that Israel's qualitative edge will grow in the coming years and that Syria will be hard put to attain strategic parity with Israel. It is likewise highly doubtful that Damascus will be capable of attaining a military nuclear option in this decade.

Iran, on the other hand, will probably reach such capability by the end of the decade and, in the wake of the lessons of the Gulf war, it is indeed striving to acquire the capability to manufacture means of mass destruction.

Tehran allocates about $2 billion a year for the reorganization of its Army, although the process of building up its military will be lengthy, particularly in view of its ambition to end its political isolation and to maintain better relations with numerous countries in the West.

For some reason, the generals who reviewed military developments in recent days avoided noting that parallel to the extensive military buildup in the region—primarily in the Gulf countries—a peace process in which Damascus is a party is also under way and that the American presence in the region constitutes a clear stabilizing factor.

Debate, Polls, Reportage on Knesset Elections

Shamir, Rabin Hold Televised Debate

TA1606184392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1730 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Election debate between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin, moderated by Nisim Mish'al, on 16 June at G.G. Studios in Neve Ilan near Jerusalem—recorded]

[Text] [Mish'al] Mr. Prime Minister, the Likud is presenting Yitzhaq Rabin as somebody who does not perform under pressure, an alcoholic, a failed leader, somebody who cannot be trusted. You, yourself, however, entrusted him with Israel's security in two governments you led. Why then can he not be trusted as Israel's future prime minister?

[Shamir] I do not want to deal with personal aspects. I say that a government led by the Likud must continue. The Likud government is presenting the voter with a distinguished list of achievements which it must continue to implement, and it would be a pity to stop. I will therefore not deal with the propaganda and defamations of various types by this or that side.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, your party, on the other hand, presents Mr. Shamir as someone who has failed in his job, who is cut off, unreachable, indifferent. That is what you say, but you also served in two governments he headed. You cooperated closely with him. Do you really believe that Mr. Shamir cannot continue as prime minister?

[Rabin] We have not come here for a series on friends discuss so and so. It is an issue of substance. I am certain that Labor under my leadership—with our positions, policies, and national priorities, in the face of the Likud government's misses—is more suitable to govern in the coming four years.

[Mish'al] Thank you both. We will return. Good evening to everybody at home. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Labor Chairman Yitzhaq Rabin will confront each other this evening over the central issues which face the public prior to next week's elections. Political pundits say that this time the public is showing great indifference to the election campaign. We hope that tonight's debate will make some sort of contribution to increased public interest in the struggle for power in Israel.

Before continuing, I would like to make clear that the questions and subjects were not made available beforehand to the contenders. The only thing fixed beforehand was who will answer first, who last, and what time will be allotted for each question. I wish you both luck. According to the draw, we open with a question to you, sir [facing Shamir]. The intifadah crossed the Green Line in recent months and reached the heart of the large cities. Many people, and not only in Bat Yam, are asking: How can we go on living like this?

[Shamir] Look, that is the question which has been put to Israel over the years, even prior to the establishment of the state: How long can we go on under incessant attacks by our enemies? This is the answer: We will never permit our enemies to force us into a situation in which we will say we cannot go on anymore. We will continue to stand firm, to fight, to foil the attacks on us, and I am sure that we will find a way to overcome this. I am certain that we are coming closer to foiling all these attacks. We are not facing that question.

[Mish'al] Mr. Shamir, I would like to define this issue a bit more. Let us take Gaza, for example. Many people ask what do we need with Gaza—the home of all these Arabs who murder people in Israel's big cities?

[Shamir] Look, one can ask why Gaza? Why Judaea and Samaria? Why Nabulus? This is Eretz Yisra'el. We live in a small reality. We must operate within this reality. There are more Arabs than Jews in the Gaza Strip. There is a certain number of Arabs and Jews in Judaea and Samaria. We have to live within this small country. It is indeed a pity that it is so small, but this is our country and we must live with it. We are attacked in the Gaza Strip, just as we are attacked in other locations—sometimes it is in Nabulus, recently it has been the Gaza Strip. We have to confront this challenge, and I think that today we are successful in that respect. We will continue to stand up to these problems and we will overcome them.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, later on I will ask you about this issue but first I would like to ask you about the intifadah. You served as defense minister for three and a half years and used all the means at your command in an unsuccessful attempt to cope with the intifadah. You actually failed to all intents and purposes. Why should the Israeli people now believe that you will be successful in quelling the intifadah if elected prime minister?

[Rabin] I was indeed defense minister when the intifadah broke out. I did not seek to place the responsibility on anyone else at the time and I do not do so now. To set things straight, I was defense minister for two years and three months of the intifadah. I used force and adopted severe measures. All the media criticized the iron-fist policy I employed. However, in the middle of 1988 I reached the conclusion that we would not be able to resolve the problem, including the intifadah, without a combination of force and military measures, together with a proposal for a political solution. I therefore forcefully promoted the unity government's peace initiative that was directed at the Palestinians in the territories. The Likud broke off the combined process. Today, the Likud has also reached the same conclusion, attended an international conference, and is speaking with the PLO both directly and indirectly. Today, it is possible to adopt an integrated approach combining force with an expedited political process. Meetings should not be held every four or five weeks. There should be a continuous process aiming toward a solution. Today, this is possible.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, you speak of a political solution. Will you be willing to give up the Gaza Strip the day after the elections?

[Rabin] Look, I would not want the political process to culminate with 750,000 Gaza Strip residents becoming Israeli citizens, bearing Israeli identity cards, participating in our elections, and walking the streets of our towns. The first stage, as stipulated in Israel's international commitments, is the implementation of autonomy. I believe this can be achieved. If we establish autonomy, I believe we can recruit resources from the Arab world that will be invested in the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria. Then we will see fewer Gazans in our cities. I want the Gazans to stay in the Gaza Strip.

[Mish'al] Mr. Shamir, I would like you to address the following assumption: You are elected prime minister and you are invited to pay an official visit to the White

House. President Bush asks you to make a significant step toward advancing the peace process with Syria. What will you be able to offer him?

[Shamir] It is true that there has been talk about that recently. There are also reports originating in the United States that whoever is elected prime minister will be invited to the White House to discuss continued cooperation between us and the United States. President Bush usually knows my views. I believe that he will not make any demands he knows I will not be able to accept. We will, however, talk. In reference to Syria, the position we are currently presenting in the ongoing peace process, in the negotiations, will also be my position in my discussions with President Bush. We are interested in peace. We can discuss conditions for peace. I am not prepared to discuss any sort of territorial changes. We are interested in peace with Syria just as with any other of Israel's neighbors.

[Mish'al] What if the President were to ask: Do you believe you can reach peace accords, permanent agreements, without territorial concessions under that policy of Eretz Yisra'el?

[Shamir] I believe that in this small country there is no possibility of reaching peace by making territorial concessions. There is nothing to give up. We will not be able to live in this country. The talk is over a Palestinian state. Will there be two states here in this tiny country? That is inconceivable. Therefore, there is the two-stages path. We continue along that path. For the moment, we will not discuss a permanent solution. There is the interim solution. We will aspire to an interim solution. We will see how it works. Afterwards we will discuss a permanent solution. Perhaps by then the situation will have changed.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, the prime minister said, and we also read about it in the newspapers today, that the President will invite whoever is elected prime minister to visit the White House. To recall your famous declaration—and I am referring once again to Syria—I quote: We will not step down from the Golan Heights even in return for peace. In fact, you will also not have anything to offer the Syrians or President Bush if he asks you about possible negotiations with the Syrians.

[Rabin] Look, if we are talking about relations with the United States, then there is tension today and even a confidence crisis. I believe that the first problem in a meeting with the U.S. President is to try to rebuild the trust because the problems between us are much more encompassing. In my view, the United States plays a primary role in neutralizing Iraq's nuclear weapons potential, and it can do that better than we can, although we also have to contribute in other fields. When discussing the return of territories in return for peace, then Likud is the champion. It returned 86 percent of the territories won in the Six-Day War. I have had experience. President Ford demanded from me that in return for continued military aid we implement a settlement freeze in Jerusalem and on the confrontation lines, contrary to our policy. I gave him a negative answer. As an Israeli, regardless of the loan guarantees, regardless of relations with the United States, I am opposed to throwing away the billions on the political settlements which are not in Greater Jerusalem and on the confrontation lines: the Jordan Rift Valley and the Golan Heights.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, I asked about Syria. If I refer to your declaration that we will not withdraw from the Golan Heights, then in fact you agree with Mr. Shamir's view on negotiations with Syria.

[Rabin] I believe that first priority should be to advance peace under our commitment to the Camp David accords between us and the Palestinians. I believe it is possible to reach an accord through ongoing negotiations, through a readiness for general elections, through what I as an Israeli want anyway, not to waste billions on political settlements. We can reach negotiations. If we reach the establishment of autonomy then there will be no problems with Jordan. Syria was always a hard nut to crack. It should be left for last. That was the situation in 1949 and in 1974. We have to decide on an order of priorities. First preference should be given to us and the Palestinians. It is possible; it is the most important thing; it will change the world's political attitude toward us.

[Mish'al] Mr. Shamir, I also ask you to refer to the loan guarantees issue. Emigration from Russia and what was formerly the USSR has almost totally ceased. Are we not missing an historic opportunity to absorb millions of immigrants because we insist on continuing settlement?

[Shamir] First, I would like to say that Mr. Rabin talks a lot about a crisis, about rebuilding ties with the United States. There is no crisis. U.S. leaders also say that relations with Israel are firm and steady and that nothing will undermine them. There are differences. That was also the situation when Rabin was prime minister. That is all. In reference to the loan guarantees, I believe we should not give up; they are a very attractive form of aid. I also see that in the United States now there are many second thoughts about the need and possibility of giving Israel that aid. I believe we will get them. I do not believe that we should give up that aid. On the other hand, we should not allow the United States, even in return for aid, for money, to dictate policy to us. Never. Because if we accept that path we will lose our independence; we will lose all freedom of maneuver. We must not do it. I assume, however, that aid for immigrant absorption is possible and that we will get loan guarantees in this or that form.

[Mish'al] Thank you. Mr. Rabin, I would like to discuss the party you head. The public impression is that you are more hawkish than your party. The person who votes for Labor—for whom is he voting? The views of Mr. Rabin or the dovish views which find expression in your party?

[Rabin] Look, Labor is a large party and has a range of opinions. As candidate for prime minister, I refer to the resolutions of our party convention. I will say simply: I believe that today there are great possibilities for the

State of Israel which are being missed by the current government. Mr. Shamir described the situation with the United States as idyllic. The truth is that today we could have benefited from $5 billion shekels, the initial $2 billion, which would have been used to solve employment problems in the face of the growing unemployment. We could have invested in road infrastructure to prevent traffic jams, in research and development. It would have given hope to the young generation and would have helped prevent immigration from dying out. The party I head expresses its positions as I have expressed them here, as expressed in all our platforms; therefore, I do not hide either doves or hawks, newcomers or veterans. We are all united.

[Shamir] If we discuss unemployment, we cannot take it out of the context of the Israeli economy. I believe that we have made very serious achievements, and recently these have been very striking. Only yesterday we were told about a cost of living index figure which points to a drop in inflation. There is a process of declining inflation. Every Israeli citizen knows what that means for each of us. There are also other indications of an improvement in the economic situation. There is economic growth, 7 percent in 1991. There is an increase in the GNP; from 1986 to 1991 it almost doubled, from 30 billion shekels to almost 60 billion in 1991. There is a steady list of achievements, of growth. Unemployment is an outcome of the flow of immigration. No country in the world, not even the strongest or the richest, can absorb within just over two years 10 percent of its population, over 400,000 people. On the one hand, what do we see? Unemployment among the long-time citizens is declining constantly. We are producing more and more workplaces; we are introducing workplaces into the economy each year. In 1991 we introduced over 100,000; in 1992 we will introduce more. Unemployment will decline with time. We should view it as something that can be overcome with time.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, in recent years, the Histadrut [labor federation] factories have encountered difficulties and even crises. Some were even on the verge of bankruptcy. What can you say to those people who ask how can you hope to handle the economy of the entire country if you cannot even manage your own backyard?

[Rabin] Look, your question runs contrary to the facts. I would like to remind you that eight years ago, a Likud government led by Shamir, brought the country to an inflation rate that reached 400 or 500 percent. The Likud caused a unprecedented budget deficit. It created a horrendous economic situation. Then, a national unity government headed by Shim'on Peres was established. We were partners in that government. We extricated the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] from the Lebanese quagmire; we pulled our national economy out of the morass and saved it from total collapse. The economy was tumbling into a steep decline. Without us, the national economy could not have been rehabilitated. We proved that. As for now, my approach is totally different from Mr. Shamir's. I believe that this is a time of historic opportunity, both for promoting peace in order to resolve our internal problems and also to absorb a large immigration wave of 1 million or 1.5 million Jews. The problem is not what has been done but rather what has not been done. The problem is the Likud's wrong order of priorities. They have injected billions into the political settlements which have no security value. They have failed to exploit the $10 billion that the United States offered us, something it has not offered any other country in the world. Had we put aliyah, the creation of jobs, education problems, and research and development in their rightful places on the national order of priorities, we could today be witnessing a huge aliyah and a generation of young people brimming with optimism. This is still possible. We just have to change the government.

[Mish'al] Mr. Shamir, I will now ask a question pertaining to the future following the elections. The latest polls indicate a tie between the two blocs. What would you prefer: A national unity government, perhaps with an agreement to rotate the premiership between you and Mr. Rabin? Or a narrow right-wing government?

[Shamir] Obviously we first will have to see the results of the elections. Now, with regard to a national unity government, I knew that you would ask this question. I myself proposed and initiated this in the past. Indeed, we established a national unity government, and Mr. Rabin even mentioned it just now. What happened then? It became clear that this framework could not be maintained, first and foremost because of the insufferable behavior of our Alignment, or Labor partner. There was continuous disruption of agreements; there were underhanded dealings and actions taken behind the prime minister's back; there were intrigues with the Arabs and with other parties. Finally, it was the Labor party itself that tore this government asunder. So how can we establish such a government again? Nevertheless, I never completely rejected the possibility of such a government. We have to see what the circumstances and possible ramifications are. At the moment, however, it is simply not realistic. I think that as far as the peace process and Israel's international relations are concerned, as well as our economic development... [changes thought] As for our relations with the United States, I think that the Likud's role in building these relations and expanding the strategic cooperation between the two countries was far greater than that of the Alignment. Therefore, I believe that the Likud government should be allowed to continue functioning; it would be a mistake to stop the momentum.

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, as Mr. Shamir has just said that a national unity is an unrealistic prospect, then your alternative is to go either with the left-wing parties, or with the religious factions, or with the Arab parties. What are your actual options?

[Rabin] Look, right now we are in the midst of the election campaign. We seek to get as many supporting votes as possible so as to enable us to form a government that will pursue our policies and our national order of priorities. That cannot include the extreme left-wing—HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Darawshah, and Mi'ari—because of their

positions, not because they are Arabs. Nor can such a government include the extreme right wing—Moledet and Tehiya—again, not because they are Jewish, but because of their positions. I believe, without getting into all kinds of descriptions—some of which I certainly do not agree with—of what occurred in the national unity government, that it is extremely regrettable that Mr. Shamir and the Likud have not reached the simple conclusion that the system has to be changed. We must have the prime minister directly elected by the general public and thus let the people decide between the two alternatives, Likud or Labor.

Had Shamir and his friends not torpedoed the legislation in the Knesset, the choice would have been a genuine one, the most democratic possible. The people would have decided who they want as prime minister, which party they want to rule. That is true democracy. Otherwise, under the current system we will go on being susceptible to blackmail by small parties, to ugly horse-trading. We were also party to that system, I am not denying that, but we reached a conclusion. We said: Let us change the system and introduce direct elections so that you, the voter, will decide who will be prime minister.

[Mish'al] Mr. Shamir, we are coming to the end. I would like to transfer to you the role of moderator and let you ask Mr. Rabin something. You have one minute; go ahead.

[Shamir] It is quite hard, but let us see. Mr. Rabin gave a lot of importance to direct elections. We are not opposed; there was a vote in the Knesset that direct election of prime minister will take place in the 14th Knesset. I do not believe it will change everything. I now have a question for Mr. Rabin. I would like to ask him: Do you really want a Palestinian state inside Eretz Yisra'el? With whom do you want to reach a territorial compromise, with whom?

[Mish'al] Mr. Rabin, this is the very last minute, which is all yours. You can conclude with whatever you want.

[Rabin] In reference to Mr. Shamir's question: I oppose a Palestinian state between us and Jordan. To the same extent, I do not want 1.7 million Palestinians as citizens of Israel. Therefore, when the late Mr. Begin presented the autonomy proposals to the Knesset in 1978 I voted in favor and Mr. Shamir abstained. I am in favor of starting with that; new possibilities will open up. I have three principles: No to 3 million Palestinian citizens; no to a Palestinian state; no to a withdrawal to the 1967 borders. Jerusalem and the confrontation lines remain with us.

[Mish'al] Thank you, Mr. Rabin. That is all for the 1992 debate. Thank you, Mr. Shamir, and thank you, Mr. Rabin. Thank you, viewers at home. Good night and Shalom.

Likud May Be Invited to Join Labor

TA1406064492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Report by party affairs correspondents Yaron Deqel and Dov Gilhar]

[Text] [Deqel] Last night, nine days before the Knesset elections, Labor Knesset faction Chairman Hayim Ramon said: The Likud will be invited to join a Yitzhaq Rabin-led government if Labor wins the elections. Ramon, however, clarified: Likud will be invited given certain conditions but not to join a national unity government of the kind we all know. This is the first time that the issue of Likud joining a Labor government has been stated so clearly. Dov Gilhar has more details:

[Gilhar] Meretz Knesset Member [MK] Shulamit Aloni last night challenged Labor. In the televised Meretz election ad, she asked Yitzhaq Rabin: Are you ready to announce with whom will you attempt to form a government? Israel is waiting for an answer, Aloni said.

The reply was not late in coming. Pressed by reporters at the Labor television studio last night, MK Hayim Ramon said that if it wins, Labor will ask Likud to join a unity government led by Rabin. This invitation will not be made on a basis of equality, rotation, or any other technique, but only in the event that Likud accepts the Labor guidelines, Ramon said.

Yitzhaq Rabin addressed the issue at a big rally in Bat Yam last night. A government I lead will not include the extreme right wing, or HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality], Mi'ari, and Darawshah, Rabin said.

Labor is not .ndifferent to the Meretz campaign slogan—If you vote Labor, you may get Shamir in the next government. Party Secretary Mikha Harish said last night: In its previous incarnation—DASH [Democratic Movement for Change]—Meretz joined a Likud- led government; Rubinstein joined a Shamir-led government.

[Deqel] Just a correction here: Rubinstein did not join the government, though DASH did join the coalition with Menahem Begin.

It may be assumed that Ramon made his remarks at this time as part of the elections tactics. The Likud has been trying to portray Labor as a leftists' party, claiming that Rabin is backed by Mi'ari and Darawshah. In his declaration, Ramon was trying to present Labor as a center party which may invite Likud to join the government—if Labor wins the elections, which is naturally not at all certain.

Likud Platform—'Title' to Territories

TA1506103092 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jun 92 p 4

[ITIM report]

[Text] The Likud will seek ways to change the system of government and repeal the law for the direct election of the prime minister. This fact arises from a work plan formulated by the Likud for the coming year, based on the premise that it will form the next government.

At a news conference held yesterday in Tel Aviv, Knesset Members Eliyahu Ben-Elisar and Dan Tikhon presented

the Likud's platform. With regard to a government system reform, the platform states: "The Likud will seek to restore the nation's confidence in the existing system." Replying to a question, Ben- Elisar said that the Likud is not undertaking to resort to any particular mode of action, although it will lean toward repealing the law to reform the system of government, which was passed in the outgoing Knesset.

The issue of peace is addressed in the Foreign Affairs and Defense chapter compiled by Ben-Elisar as follows: "The State of Israel has a title and a claim to sovereignty [leMedinat Yisra'el yesh zekhut utvi'a leribonut] in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Israel will raise this claim at the end of the period of interim arrangements and will act to implement its title." Ben-Elisar added that the Likud will take no action toward implementing that sovereignty as long as peace negotiations are under way.

—Syria: "The 10th Knesset endorsed a cabinet proposal and passed a law under which Israeli law, jurisdiction, and administration are applied to the Golan Heights. Israeli sovereignty in this province was thereby established." The work plan says nothing about the future of the Golan Heights in the eventuality of negotiations with Syria.

—Intifadah: "The security forces will pursue activities aimed at enforcing law and order throughout Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as everywhere in Eretz Yisra'el. The forces will pursue the security activities that have been carried out successfully to date. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not permit violent rampages." On this issue, Ben-Elisar said that the eradication of the intifadah was not raised at the discussions and that this formulation did not appear in the Likud's previous platform either.

—Settlement: "Settlement throughout Eretz Yisra'el is a right, and it is implemented on the premise that it is a central foundation of national security. We will strictly observe the principle that Jewish settlement should not cause the dispossession of anyone of his land, village, or town."

—Economy-Histadrut [Labor Federation]: "We will take action toward severing the link between the Histadrut trade unions, sick fund, pension funds, and businesses.

"Government-owned bodies and companies will be sold to entrepreneurs, private elements, and factory workers. The government will also take action to accelerate the sale of banks."

The plan further proposes the repeal of the "employers tax, stamp duty, import tax, and foreign travel tax."

Chance of Levi Switching Parties Seen

TA1606102292 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jun 92 p A3

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Senior Labor members have recently instructed the heads of the party's campaign headquarters not to attack Foreign Minister David Levi in the campaign ads. This is based on the assumption that if Labor wins the elections and internal confrontations start in the Likud, it may be possible to convince David Levi to quit and join a Rabin-led government with some of his followers, just as Moshe Dayan did when he joined Menahem Begin at the time.

Knesset Member [MK] Mikha Harish, chairman of Labor's campaign headquarters, last night confirmed to HA'ARETZ that Labor will not attack David Levi, going on the assumption that after the elections, if Labor wins, it will be possible to cause a rift in the Likud and set up a Labor government. Harish said that Levi is highly regarded in Labor because of his position supporting the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Lebanon and the moderate remarks he has made as foreign minister.

A senior Labor source said last night that the party is not ruling out the possibility of offering to let Levi remain in his post as foreign minister in a Rabin-led government, if he indeed decides to quit the Likud.

In the Labor campaign headquarters meeting last night, public reservations were voiced for the first time regarding the possibility that a new unity government will be established after the elections. In Labor's upper echelons, fear was expressed that soon after the elections, MK Shim'on Peres might lead a campaign within the party against the establishment of a unity government. [passage omitted]

In last night's meeting, MK Hagay Merom demanded that Labor make it unequivocally clear that its aim is the establishment of a government under its leadership and not a national unity government. Merom said that it should be stressed that the Likud has failed and that Labor intends to send it to the opposition benches. "We must not be afraid to openly state that our first choice is the establishment of a Rabin-led government, with Meretz and the religious parties and with anyone who quits the Likud and joins us," Merom said.

MK Harish said in this respect that Yitzhaq Rabin has made it clear that the next government will include anyone who will accept Labor's stands, excluding the extreme right and left. Harish said that if Labor wins an edge of eight to 10 Knesset seats, a Labor government will be formed in which Rabin will act as prime minister for the next four years. [passage omitted]

Poll Shows Right Wing Leading

TA1206164592 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 12 Jun 92 p 3

[Text] In a poll conducted Wednesday [10 June] by the Modi'in Ezrahi Research Institute the right wing received 55 Knesset seats; the left wing, 52; the ultra-Orthodox gained nine seats, and the Arab parties got four.

Those which did not muster the minimum number of votes for even a single seat were Yitzhaq Moda'i's New Liberal Party and the immigrant parties.

The telephone poll was conducted among 512 people representing the adult Jewish population in Israel, except for inhabitants of the territories, kibbutzim, and Army bases. They were asked: "If the Knesset elections took place today, for which party would you vote?"

	10 June	late May	mid-April
Likud	37	35	33
Labor	42	42	43
Moledet	4	5	3
Tzomet	5	4	6
Tehiya	4	3	3
Meretz	10	9	9
Yahadut Hatora	5	6	7
SHAS	4	4	5
NRP	5	5	4
PLP + HADASH + Darawshah	4	6	6
Other	-	1	1
Total	120	120	120

[Key to abbreviations in table: SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim; NRP—National Religious Party; PLP—Progressive List for Peace; HADASH—Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]

Paper Publishes 3 Election Polls

TA1206164192 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jun 92 p 1

[YEDI'OT AHARONOT-commissioned public opinion polls, carried out by Dahaf, Teleseqer, and Geocartographia]

[Excerpts] Question: For whom would you vote were the elections held now? (results in number of Knesset seats)

The list	Dahaf	Teleseqer	Geocartographia
Labor	41	43	40
Likud	34	33	32
Meretz	12	12	13
Tehiya	3	3	3
Moledet	5	4	4
Tzomet	5	4-5	5
NRP	5	5	6
Yahadut Hatora	6	5-6	6
SHAS	4	4	4
RAKAH + ADP + PLP	5		7
RAKAH		4	
ADP		2	
PLP		0	
Moda'i	0	0-1	0

[Key to table abbreviations: NRP—National Religious Party; SHAS—Torah Observing Sephardim; RAKAH—New Communist List; ADP—Arab Democratic Party; PLP—Progressive List for Peace]

The three polls were conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday [9-10 June] of this week. The Dahaf poll comprised 617 respondents, the Teleseqer 500, and the Geocartographia 1,000. All three comprised a representative sample of the adult Jewish population.

Comment

[passage omitted] —The rate of "floating votes" ranges from 10 to 23 percent.

—A growing inclination to take part in the elections was noted in the Arab sector.

—This week's ratings of the television election ads give rise to doubts as to their efficacy. The daily rate of people watching them has dropped from 50 percent during the first week to 32 or 33 percent this week, with only 3 to 5 percent stating that the ads will affect their ballot.

Ge'ulat Yisra'el Election Ad Airs

TA1506133592

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1030 GMT on 15 June carries another 10-minute batch of election campaign ads, including one by a party not previously covered.

The ad by the Ge'ulat Yisra'el faction, whose symbol is Quf, Lamed, states that the "ultra-Orthodox public has an extreme right-wing orientation and is against the left

wing's defeatism" and asks "how come the public is so right-wing but the religious and ultra-Orthodox parties ignore these issues and accept either a right-wing or left-wing government with equanimity." The ad asserts: "Now there is an alternative. An ultra-Orthodox right-wing party, Ge'ulat Yisra'el, headed by Deputy Minister Eli'ezer Mizrahi," that "considers the struggle for Eretz Yisra'el as just as important as religious issues." Ge'ulat Yisra'el vows to "fight against the autonomy proposal and the Arab knife-wielders and terrorists, to work for a strong right-wing government, and to strive to spread the word of the Tora and Judaism throughout the country."

Islamists Assail Ban on Open-Air 'Id Prayers

JN1706073992 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 92 pp 1,5

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Muslim Brotherhood members of the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday denounced as an unjustified violation of the Prophet Muhammad's teachings a police action taken in the early morning of the first day of the 'Id al-Adha when worshippers were prevented from performing prayers in open areas, fields and stadiums throughout the country.

A statement issued by the "Islamic Movement Parliamentary Office" and distributed to the press also described the police action as a violation of citizens freedoms and disappointment to people's hopes in Shura and democracy and urged the government to take proper action against those who initiated the action.

"The worshippers were shocked and dismayed on the morning of the 'Id al-Adha last Thursday to see unusally large numbers of police officers preventing them from praying in open fields in violation of the Prophet's teachings," said the statement. It said that the Prophet himself used to pray in the open air on the 'Id morning all his life except once when it rained and he was forced to go inside the mosque to pray.

This sudden and shocking measure on the part of the police is quite alien to Jordanian worshippers and constitutes an unjustified violation of the Prophet's instructions to the faithful as he used to say: " 'Those who do not abide by my teachings would not be counted as my followers'", the statement said.

It said the police action constituted a flagrant violation of the people's freedoms, including the right to worship as guaranteed by the Jordanian Constitution.

"The worshippers were dismayed and shocked by this practice and disappointed by the unusual measure, and they have the right to be so because they had great hopes of freedom under Shura and democracy and are not to blame for feeling so," said the statement. It said the worshippers had to look for inconvenient places to perform the prayers invoking God's wrath on those who prevented them from praying in the open air.

"In light of this situation, the Muslim Brotherhood in true commitment to the Prophet's teachings and out of its keenness to respect the citizens' freedoms, including the freedom to worship, declares its open condemnation of these measures and of other orders that conflict with the teachings of Islam or deprive the citizens of their own freedoms," said the statement.

The Muslim Brotherhood praised mosque preachers for exercising self-restaint and said that the mosque preachers "foiled the objectives of those circles which had wanted to strike at the national interest in the name of protecting national interests, like they did at the Professional Association Complex in Amman, at the University [of] Jordan and at Parliament House."

The movement also thanked provincial governors and police officers "who expressed understanding of the situation and did not insult the feelings of the worshippers and refrained from clashing with them."

The Muslim Brotherhood also denounced as contradictory to the Prophet's teachings those instructions, given to the police and decided to regard that incident as a "dark cloud marring the democratic process of Jordan."

Furthermore, the movement demanded that the government hold those responsible for the orders to account for their "provocations." The statement said that in some cases the fields intended for mass prayers were flooded with water and in some places were littered with garbage.

The statement said that in other cases the gates leading to those areas were shut and the loudspeakers installed there confiscated while posters with slogans offering 'Id greetings to the worshippers were removed.

The statement said that at the same time Jordanian citizens continue to witness posters and advertisements filling the country about the Russian circus performing in Amman alongside advertisements about singers and entertainers performing during the 'Id holiday.

The statement demanded that the government tackle urgent issues like "unemployment, the country's indebtedness, soaring prices, corruption in public administration, the increasing rate of crime, and the shortage of drinking water in the country instead of dealing with matters that are not related to national interest but rather tend to invoke God's wrath on society."

The statement demanded that police should direct their attention towards safeguarding security and preventing crime and putting an end to criminal actions and acts of corrupt people.

It said that "the Muslim country should lead others in protecting religious rites in the face of repeated attempts on the part of our neighbouring enemy who is intent on exploiting Biblical writings in a vindicative manner to serve his own interests."

Democratic Unionist Assocation Dissolves

JN1706084492 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Jun 92 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—In a bid described as aimed at encouraging mergers among sprouting Jordanian political parties, the Democratic Unionist Association (DUA), a forerunner of political parties in the Kingdom, has announced it is dissolving after 17 years of political activities.

The association's founder, a former Ba'thist and the minister of environment in the government of the late Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Hamid Sharaf, Dr. Jamal al-Sha'ir, announced his party's dissolution over the 'Id

al-Adha holiday in what political observers said was an unprecedented move among political organisations in the Kingdom and across the Arab World.

"I can't remember a time when political parties dissolved themselves; they usually break away and create a new one," said Mazin al-Sakit, a former Ba'thist and steering committee member of the Jordan National Democrats Group, a new political organisation founded by former members of liberal, pan-Arab and leftist groups.

According to Dr. al-Sha'r, his aim is not to dissolve his party for the sake of ending its political mission, but to encourage mergers among the many political groupings which are on the verge of announcing themselves as political parties.

"The aim now is to merge with other parties, to create a strong united party, not dozens of small weak parties," Dr. Sha'ir, who is a physician, told the Jordan Times over the weekend.

The announcement comes at a time when political parties are bracing themselves to be legalised and according to Dr. Sha'ir the move is timely. "Before everyone starts registering and making things official there should be large scale consultations because the more parties there are the more difficult it will be to get a consensus on political issues on the national level," he explained.

Ministry of Interior officials and political observers says that at least 60 separate groups have indicated their intention to register as parties in the Kingdom once a draft law on political parties is approved and enacted by Parliament in its extraordinary session beginning Saturday.

"Fragmentation will further delay progress in our society," Dr. Sha'ir said. "Our main slogan over the past 17 years has been to push for the return to parliamentary life in the Kingdom."

The decision to dissolve DUA and encourage mergers with other parties was taken by the group's executive committee after months of negotiations with other political groups.

Political priorities change, Dr. al-Sha'ir said and called on "left of centre" political activists to unite and urge their parties to merge and form one major party.

"Now that political life in Jordan is blooming, political organisation and unity is even more essential than before," Dr. al- Sha'ir added. He urged members of his party's inner circle, estimated at about 200, to join other left-of-centre parties, that are still emerging out of the woods.

Political parties are expected to play a major role in the next legislative elections scheduled to be held in November 1993. Dr. al- Sha'ir made two unsuccessful bids for a seat in the Lower House of Parliament, first in the by-elections in 1984 and again in 1989.

He named four political groupings for ex-DUA members to chose from. The four, all parties with similar goals and aims, are parties that Dr. al-Sha'ir says he has been trying to merge with since January of this year.

"We have tried on several occasions to create a merger between our party and these five groups, but it was too difficult. I have now taken the first initiative by dissolving our party—I consider it the beginning of a merger."

The four political groupings are the Unionist Liberals, the Jordanian National Democrats, the Arab Unionists and the Democratic Forum.

Political activists close to the left fear that the fragmentation of pan-Arab, liberal and leftist parties will sideline them in the overall political arena and will leave the door wide open for Islamic and rightwing political groupings, which are also increasing their political activity.

"Our fragmentaiton means more support for religious and conservative parties," said one political activist.

Political parties have been banned in Jordan since the late 1950's but have been allowed to effectively operate since the liberalisation and democratisation process began in 1989.

The DUA—or "the Association" as it was known among political activists—has been active in lobbying for political liberalisation since it announced its status as a party in 1983. The party operated with implicit approval of the government at a time when most political groups were banned from operating openly.

Only the Muslim Brotherhood, which operated as a charity had some freedom to organise. During the 1989 legislative elections the Muslim Brotherhood won 22 seats in the 80-seat legislature.

Ship Interceptions at al-'Aqabah Port Continue

JN1506110292 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jun 92 p 7

[Interview with Tawfiq Qa'war, president of the Shipping Agents' Association, by Salam al-Shawwa—date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Shawwa] We would like to talk about the shipping situation in al-'Aqabah port. What naval forces are currently stationed there? Do they still intercept ships heading to Jordan?

[Qa'war] U.S. naval forces continue to intercept ships in accordance with UN resolutions. There are two U.S. Navy cruisers currently in the Gulf of Aqaba; one Australian and the other Canadian [as published]. Their task is to search each ship as it enters or leaves the port. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shawwa] How many ships have been intercepted this year compared to last year?

[Qa'war] The U.S. naval forces intercepted nine ships during the first five months of this year. Thirty ships were intercepted during the same period last year.

Through our follow-up of arriving ships during the past period, we found that ships that abide by the instructions are not subjected to any delay. Problems arise with chartered ships, or ships that are unaware of the instructions or that have not taken cognizance of these instructions beforehand. The most recent ship to be banned from entering was "SEAWIJAYA," which belongs to an Indonesian line. The ship was carrying 2,600 tonnes of cargo for al-'Aqabah and 6,000 tonnes for European ports. The ship was intercepted because it failed to abide by instructions. Therefore, it will have to unload its cargo in Suez, and reload the cargo intended for al-'Aqabah onto another ship. This will incur additional losses on the Jordanian businessman, who will have to bear the cost of transferring the cargo, which constitutes an additional loss of $40 per tonne.

[Al-Shawwa] In your opinion, what are the total losses suffered by Jordanian importers as a result of the search operations, delays, and banning the entry of ships?

[Qa'war] The total losses due to inspections amounted to $23 million for 1991. This is the estimated loss incurred by Jordanian importers. It is the amount of additional charges paid for the search operations of inbound containers. [passage omitted]

[Al-Shawwa] How do you assess the current situation at al- 'Aqabah port? Have all regular shipping lines resumed their trips to al-'Aqabah?

[Qa'war] We can say that al-'Aqabah has returned to half of its activity prior to the Gulf crisis. Twenty regular shipping lines, out of 41 lines that used to have trips to al-'Aqabah prior to the Gulf crisis, have resumed their trips. As the number of shipping lines decreased, so the number of ships that came to the port declined. Instead of having 14 or 15 options, the Jordanian businessman now has no more than three options. Moreover, most of the ships that come to the port now are chartered, and carry a full load of rice, sugar, wheat, and fodder.

Article 20 of UN Resolution 678, which permits the entry of food into sisterly Iraq, has had a great effect on restoring shipping activity to its earlier levels. [passage omitted]

'Malicious' Libyan Anti-Arabism Campaign Viewed

JN1506084592 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Jun 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Slandering Arabism Does Not Conceal Mistakes"]

[Text] The Libyan press, as well as the Jamahiriyah's official news agency, are launching a malicious campaign against Arabism and the Arabs. Moreover, what might be regarded as a repugnant campaign against anything that is Arab is taking place in the lobbies of the Libyan parliament—the General People's Congress. The organizers and executers of this campaign have justified it by saying that the Arabs—meaning their official regimes—abandoned Libya while it was facing threats, aerial embargo, and reduction of its political missions abroad. One could understand the reasons for this campaign and even accept the justifications provided if our Libyan brothers had even once supported their nation and its issues, or if they had not always stood against the nation's issues. The brothers in the Jamahiriyah possess oil from which no Arab country or Arab issue has benefited. In addition to oil, they have a political role which they have not employed in the service of the Arab homeland and its causes.

The Palestinians and the Lebanese have courageously fought over the Lebanese territories. When they found themselves alone, the Libyan voice called on them to commit suicide, and not leave Lebanon.

The Iraqis courageously fought a vicious and fierce war for eight years. The Libyan brothers were then in the Iranian trench, not the Iraqi trench. Rather, their missiles hit Baghdad from Tehran, frightening millions of secure people, destroying schools, and killing children.

When the Gulf crisis erupted, the Libyan brothers continued to talk about Saddam's conspiracy—bringing the Iraqi Army into confrontation with Bush. The barbaric aggression against Iraq took place, and the missiles of the Iraqis reached the heart of occupied Palestine. The Libyan brothers, however, did not change their stance.

Despite all the enemies' aggressions and the desertion of the brothers, the Iraqis, Palestinians, and the Lebanese neither lost faith in Arabism nor slandered the Arabs. We do not understand the reason for all this Libyan uproar since the Libyan ports and land routes are still open and Libya is not facing an embargo that kills children, or slaughters sick people. It is not facing an embargo that deprives school children of pencils and notebooks. Despite this, the Libyan brothers slander the Arabs and Arabism, and call for handing over two Libyan sons to the enemies of the Arabs and Arabism, not to us. Now, we are the ones who are being slandered.

We support sisterly Libya and all its dear citizens. We support what the international law decides, not what the American, French, and British international legitimacy decides. If the Libyan officials want to make a mistake or commit a sin, they must not pave the way for it by slandering Arabism and the Arabs. We say to them: You are reaping the results of your accumulated stances against all the nation's issues. You cannot resolve your problems through slander, nor can you overcome your hardships. A cheap writer in your press or cowardly pens in your official circles do not determine your Arabism and that of your country.

The question that remains is: What should the Iraqis say after eight years of fighting and two years of embargo, and the only voice they raise is the voice of the Arabs and Arabism? We hope that others would learn from them.

Gorbachev 'Faithful Servant' of Zionism

JN1606110392 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
16 Jun 92 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Gorbachev Flatters Israel"]

[Text] The current visit to Israel by the former president of a state which was once known as the Soviet Union, can only provoke mixed feelings of pity and contempt toward a leader who has degraded himself and his country's reputation to the maximum. He has tirelessly continued this extremely harmful conduct without batting an eye and without twinges of conscience.

It is not strange that Mikhail Gorbachev's second visit abroad should be to Israel, where he arrived aboard a Jewish billionaire's airplane, in order to ask the Hebrew state to pay a long series of bills for the historic services rendered by this man who is eager to serve the interests of Zionism and its allies in the West, headed by the United States itself.

The perestroyka fabricator's stance seemed all too funny and ridiculous when he announced in Israel that he refuses to meet with any of the Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories because of their stand during the Gulf war, despite the fact that those Palestinians have met with the officials of the United States and most of the leaders of the allied states that launched the Gulf war.

Moreover, Gorbachev's stance invites bitter sarcasm when he calls on Syria to give up half the Golan Heights to Israel. He does not consider this as a reward to the aggressor despite the fact that he himself is the former leader of a country which, before disappearing from the map, had supported Syria's right to regain the Golan in addition to all Arab rights.

Hence, Gorbachev's visit to Israel and the cordial reception he is receiving there can only indicate that Israel was among the first beneficiaries of the destructive policies of the leader of a country that no longer exists, and that Gorbachev has been a faithful servant of Zionism and Israel, especially since he himself is the one who opened the door for Jewish immigrants who are still flowing into the occupied Arab territories.

As we pity Mikhail Gorbachev's condition, which no other leader has reached in modern history, we consider his current visit to Israel and the accompanying statements and cheap opportunistic stands as further evidence of the decline in the position of this man, who has sold his country and his reputation and risked everything to appease the West, Israel, and Zionism and collect some crumbs from his old-new masters.

Reportage on Release of German Hostages 17 Jun

German Minister, al-Sulh Comment

NC1706090292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] At 0955 today [0655 GMT], German hostages Thomas Kemptner and Heinrich Struebig were handed over to Bernd Schmidbauer, state minister of the German Federal Chancellery, at a reception at the government palace. Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh handed the two Germans to Schmidbauer in the presence of Lebanese and Syrian security officials. Thus the saga of foreign hostages in Lebanon has ended.

The German minister expressed his profound pleasure and that of the German people at the release of the two Germans after three years in captivity. He also extended warm congratulations to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, adding: I wish Lebanon political peace and economic stability; Lebanon and its people need this after many long years of war. He stressed that Germany and Europe are looking into cooperation with Lebanon.

Prime Minister al-Sulh said: Now that this tragic saga—which pained our hearts and consciences—has ended, and the last two hostages have been released, I thank all those who assisted in their release and the restoration of their freedom. I especially thank fraternal Syria and its security services, which played a prominent role. In the wake of this release, which pleases us all, I hope a new page can be opened with Germany and the other European countries that will be characterized by fruitful cooperation in our mutual interest and in the interest of our peoples. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the two hostages and their families and reiterate my deep thanks to all those who helped gain their release.

Everyone then went to the Bristol Hotel.

Condition, Activities of Hostages Reported

NC1706101092 Paris AFP in English 0933 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Beirut, June 17 (AFP) - Germans Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner completed their march to freedom Wednesday and were to fly out of Beirut after more than three years in captivity, Lebanese sources reported. Struebig, 51, and Kemptner, 30, the last two Westerners held in Lebanon, were handed over to German Chancellery minister Bernd Schmidbauer at the office of Lebanese Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh.

They were to leave here at mid-day for Germany on a special German aircraft, making a stopover on the Greek island of Crete to meet family members gathered there. The continuing flight would be aboard a German Air Force plane, according to Greek officials.

The two aid workers, kidnapped May 16, 1989 by the pro-Iranian Mujahidin for Freedom, were wearing dark suits and blue ties and appeared clean-shaven as they were handed over to Schmidbauer. Struebig was subdued at the brief ceremony and appeared haggard, while his younger colleague Kemptner managed a smile. Neither addressed the press and journalists were not allowed to question them. They had earlier undergone a medical exam at a Beirut hotel, where it was determined that Kemptner was suffering from dysentery, according to Lebanese sources.

Schmidbauer in a brief speech at the handover ceremony thanked "the United Nations secretary general and the governments of Iran, Syria and Lebanon."

"I would like to stress the strong wish of the federal government that all individuals in the region and worldwide who are illegally kept in prison will get their freedom back," he added.

Prime Minister al-Sulh, whose government faced international isolation during a decade-long hostage crisis, hailed all the parties that had a hand in securing the freedom of the two Germans—"in particular sister Syria and its security services, which played a key role." Syria is the dominant powerbroker in Lebanon, where it has stationed some 35,000 troops, and has worked closely in past releases with Iran, which commands the loyalty of many of the Lebanese hostage-takers.

Struebig and Kemptner arrived at the prime minister's office aboard a United Nations vehicle escorted by special U.N. hostage envoy Giandomenico Picco, who had taken custody of them late Tuesday. The pair spent the night at the headquarters of U.N. Middle East truce observers in al-Fayyadiyah near Beirut.

The hostages were reported by Lebanese sources to have been released Tuesday in the custody of a Lebanese-Syrian security committee. They were to have been delivered to Schmidbauer at the residence of the Lebanese president late Tuesday but their final walk to freedom was interrupted by unspecified last-minute difficulties.

Struebig and Kemptner were abducted three years ago near the southern Lebanese port of Sidon, where as members of the organization ASME [expansion unknown]-Humanitas they were working with Palestinian refugees. Their captors, the Mujahidin for Freedom, had initially demanded the release from German prisons of Lebanese Shiite militants Muhammad and 'Abbas Hammadi, convicted on terrorism charges. Germany rejected the demand and efforts to free the two hostages ran aground until last week, when the Mujahidin—apparently under Syrian and Iranian pressure—agreed to accept "guarantees" on the fate of the Hammadis.

Sources here said Iran and Syria are being counted on by the Hammadi family to secure a reduction in the sentences of Muhammad and 'Abbas and an improvement in their living conditions.

[Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic at 0945 GMT on 17 June adds: "The German delegation and the two freed German hostages have just left for Beirut International Airport, accompanied by UN envoy Giandomenico Picco. They will fly to Crete and from there to Bonn."]

Shaykh Qabalan Receives Iranian Envoy

NC1706082592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Ja'farit Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan received Iranian envoy Seyyed Takhti yesterday. They reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon, including the current exchanges concerning the release of the two German hostages.

After the meeting, Shaykh Qabalan said: We discussed various issues with the Iranian envoy. We stressed our support for the release of the two Germans, because it is necessary to close the hostage file. Muhammad 'Ali Hammadi and his brother 'Abbas should also be released, however, as well as Fawwaz Yunus, being held in Washington [in connection with the 1985 TWA hijacking]. All those imprisoned in al-Khiyam, 'Atlit, and Israel should also be released, especially Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was unfairly and unjustifiably taken from his home. Foreign intelligence services should not track down those accused of kidnapping.

Ja'ja' Views Government; Resignations Discussed

NC1706073892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Lebanese Forces commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has said that his view of the government has not changed and that he will submit his written resignation whenever he is asked to do so. Dr. Ja'ja' said that reconciliation is one thing but participation in the government is another, adding: We consider ourselves reconciled with all parties, individuals, and officials. This is what we sought from the beginning of the national reconciliation process. Dr. Ja'ja' ruled out the possibility of participating in the parliamentary elections if the government decides to hold them.

Ja'ja' made these remarks following a luncheon hosted by President Ilyas al-Hirawi yesterday in al-Ramlah al-Bayda' in honor of papal envoy Cardinal Silvestrini. The banquet was attended by Speaker Husayn al-Husayni; Prime Minister Rashid al-Sulh; and Ministers Michel al-Murr, Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, Nasri al-Ma'luf, Shahi Barsumian, and George Sa'adah. President al-Hirawi and Dr. Ja'ja' also met in private.

Minister Sulayman Tony Franjiyah, who came to the Presidential Palace, said that he was resigning from the government to protest the presence of Dr. Ja'ja' at the banquet. Franjiyah said that he will not wait for al-Hirawi to accept or reject the resignation, adding that under the present circumstances, a president who does not have the courage to speak his mind does not deserve to rule, as he put it.

In an interview with AL-NAHAR, Franjiyah said that Maronite reconciliation is not a bargain that President al-Hirawi can strike. He said that a discussion over lunch cannot resolve a 15-year old problem; the issue is much larger than that.

Minister on Franjiyah's Resignation

NC1606201692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Excerpts] The cabinet has endorsed a draft bill on the amendment of certain provisions in the elections law. The prime minister will refer this bill to the Chamber of Deputies in the next few days. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Michel Samahah said the cabinet was not informed of Minister Sulayman Franjiyah's resignation. He noted that if the resignation is true, President al-Hirawi and Prime Minister al-Sulh will deal with it.

Buwayz on Implementation of al-Ta'if Agreement

PM1606133092 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jun 92 p6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What point has the state reached in its implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement?

[Buwayz] The al-Ta'if agreement includes several articles. First, it provides for constitutional reforms. It also gives all Lebanese, all Lebanese factions and forces, a more effective share in government, and it provides for justice and equality in Lebanon. This has been implemented to a large extent. The reforms have really been implemented.

The al-Ta'if agreement was basically designed to achieve a cease-fire. This has been achieved. It also contained a specific program for a solution beginning with the disbanding of the militias, the surrender of their weapons, and the removal of the barricades separating the various areas to ensure the rise of the institutions. This has been implemented to a very advanced degree. The Lebanese militias have been dissolved 98 percent, and they have handed their heavy and medium weapons over to the state, keeping only light weapons, and this, only in the southern areas adjacent to the areas under Israeli occupation.

The agreement was also supported at Lebanese, Arab, and international levels. This still stands. [passage omitted]

What remains of the al-Ta'if agreement is the article on the establishment of the state's authority with its own intrinsic powers and the redeployment of the Syrian forces in the al-Biqa' area. I believe that this too is being implemented by the Syrian forces. There is some noticeable redeployment in Lebanon, and I imagine that by the

end of this summer, once the two-year period is over, we could see good and programmed implementation of that article in acordance with the interests of the Lebanese state, thus enabling the state to gradually tackle all the security issues. The state is now on the threshold of reorganizing its institutions. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What about Lebanese-Saudi relations, before and after al-Ta'if?

[Buwayz] Lebanese-Saudi relations are deep-rooted and are based on great trust and friendship. His Majesty King Faysal has played a major role in this. [passage omitted]

To sum up Lebanese-Saudi relations, we can say that they are characterized by trust, friendship, and amity between the two peoples.

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the chances of parliamentary elections in Lebanon now?

[Buwayz] Actually, a lot has been said about the proposed elections, but so far there is no political decision to hold such an election. As you know, elections require a constitutional decision, inasmuch as the constitution determines how the mandate of the Chamber of Deputies is terminated. If the chamber decides to dissolve itself or refuses to discuss the budget, it can in such circumstances be dissolved. So elections require a decision by the Chamber of Deputies to dissolve itself. So far no such decision has been made. Elections also require a decision by the Lebanese Government to submit a bill to the chamber specifying the kind of elections to be held. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT] What are the new cabinet's political and economic priorities?

[Buwayz] First, the new cabinet followed an economic crisis, so its most important mission is economic reform to enable the country to flourish. Its aim was also to complete the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, with a redeployment of the Syrian Army and the establishment of the Lebanese state's authority throughout Lebanon. Its purpose was perhaps also to hold elections if a political decision is made to that effect. [passage omitted]

Lahhud Confers With UN Commander, Officers

NC1706073992 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Statement issued by the Defense Ministry information department; date not given]

[Text] Army Commander General Emile Lahhud yesterday received Gen. Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL], and several UNIFIL officers in his office at the Defense Ministry in al-Yarzah.

They discussed security developments and changes in the south resulting from repeated Israeli attacks. They also discussed the humanitarian aid which UNIFIL is distributing to the people of the south and the means of strengthening cooperation between the Lebanese Army and UNIFIL commands.

Islamic Amal Leader—All-Out War 'Unlikely'

NC1706074792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Reports from the south indicate that for the past two days the Zionist occupation forces have been building a military road in Dahr al-Shaqif, east of Arnun.

Meanwhile, Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, commented on the Zionist threats, saying: An all-out war is unlikely, at least in the foreseeable future, because it would not suit America's interests and the Zionists generally coordinate with the Americans.

Al-Musawi pointed out that limited military confrontations remain a possibility, and may be accompanied by increased political, media, and security tension. Al-Musawi added: We are confident that the intelligent rejection and prudent confrontation exhibited by Syria, Iran, the intifadah, and the resistance are unsettling to the Americans and the Zionists, who want to put an end to the resistance.

Israel Used as Western 'Tool' Against Arabs

JN1706102192 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Jun 92 p 1

[Editorial: "Arabs Have To Take a Stand"]

[Text] The search for peace in the Middle East has been going on for a long time, and many plans and initiatives talking about peace for the region have been launched. When the opportunity arrived, the states which blamed the Arabs for the absence of peace ignored the obvious facts confirming that Israel rejects peace because it was created to oppose it and to torpedo the chances to achieve it.

The Arabs have experience in both: War, which is imposed on them, and peace, to which they stressed their adherence. Based on that experience, they are the most qualified to pass judgment, explain positions, and expose the roles of the true and false advocates. But, the Arabs lack a role of their own at this critical phase. The peace offered to them is based on Israeli conditions and ignores the most basic Arab rights, including the right to oppose occupation and liberate their territories which were usurped by the Zionists.

The Arabs are preoccupied with efforts to overcome their living conditions at a time when their money is pouring on others to fall, ultimately, into the hands of their own enemies. They are also avoiding the search for the means to stop the defects and imbalances within their ranks, as if they have not yet realized Israel's objectives behind its rejection of the peace opportunities and defiance of the United Nations and its resolutions.

That is the reason why Leader al-Asad has stressed the importance of Arab solidarity and the need to create an Arab climate that befits the requirements of defending the Arab future and destiny. That is why Damascus is witnessing all these political efforts and diplomatic moves. While the Israeli position is clear, the Arabs continue to be without a stand on what happens to them or what faces them.

It is very clear that those who held the Arabs responsible for the absence of peace continue to assign Israel roles that fit each phase in the international political developments. After brandishing the pretext of resisting the alleged communist expansionism, they are now upholding the pretext of Israel's role in monitoring the European situation. They might tell us next that Israel is important for confronting Islamic or Afro-Asian detente.

Therefore, it is the pan-Arab duty of the sons of this [Arab] nation to be on the level of their responsibility. Israel was established to strike at Arab unity, history, and culture. Israel is the West's tool to retaliate against the Arabs because of the defeats which the Arabs inflicted on their enemies and caused the collapse of their empires.

We in Arab Syria warn but do not beg. We have the stand and the will to be stronger and to adhere to the pan-Arab responsibility in defending Arab lands.

However, this does not mean that the Arabs should be relieved of their responsibility. The Arab security is collective and the Zionist danger threatens our land and destiny. We should take a sincere position which will prove that even when they differ, the Arabs will not sell out, compromise, or remain outside the cultural framework of mankind to which they were the most important contributors and of whose components they were the staunchest defenders.

Commentary Rebuts Israeli Claims About Armaments

JN1606142192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1135 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Through their declared stances, Israeli officials have exceeded all reasonable and logical limits. They have shown a great disregard for human intelligence. At a time when their invading forces continue to attack southern Lebanon with various weapons and evacuate the villages and towns of their inhabitants and displace them in violation of the simplest international laws and principles, they leveled threats against Lebanon, Syria, and Iran. They cautioned against the dangers of Syrian armaments in a flagrant attempt to distort the facts and events as they have always done since the establishment of the Zionist entity.

We find it appropriate to recall some basic facts on which President Hafiz al-Asad touched during his meetings with journalists. The first fact is that Israel is the party that attacks; strikes civilians, children, elderly and women; uses advanced weapons in its air and land attacks on the Lebanese and Palestinians; threatens to launch war; and refuses to implement UN Security Council resolutions that call for withdrawing Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories, abrogating all annexation and judaization measures, and halting settlements. It is normal that occupation produces resistance. It is absolutely out of the question that Syria would provide security for the occupation forces.

The second fact is that international efforts and endeavors, including those made by big countries friendly to Israel, have failed to persuade the Israeli rulers to budge an inch from their policy of expansion and aggression, and push them to the road of peace. The Israel rulers have openly rejected, and daily reject, exchanging land for peace. They consider the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and southern Lebanon part of their alleged biblical land.

The third fact is that Israel manufactures various kinds of conventional and nonconventional weapons. Israeli factories manufacture aircraft, tanks, guns, and missiles that can be equipped with nuclear warheads. Israel also manufactures nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

On top of all this, military aid in the form of aircraft, tanks, and advanced missiles worth billions of dollars annually flood into Israel. While Syria seeks to buy weapons from abroad for defense and pays in hard currency, Western weapons arrive at Israel free of charge to reinforce its huge arsenal. While Syria strongly cooperates with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] in Vienna, the Israel rulers refuse to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and never allow IAEA experts to inspect their nuclear installations.

The fourth fact is that Syria has repeatedly declared its support for international supervision of arms in the Middle East on condition that the supervision be just and balanced. This supervision must cover arms imports and manufacturing. It is known that Arabs import weapons, while Israel manufactures and imports weapons. Hence, supervision must cover foreign weapons supplies as well as those manufactured locally in such a manner that the balance of power will not be seriously tipped in favor of the entity of aggression and usurpation.

The fifth fact is that Syria is committed to peace. Through its response to the U.S. proposals, Syria has opened the doors for peace which Israel had closed. Syria, through President Hafiz al-Asad, has declared that it will continue with the peace process despite all the Israeli obstacles and obstructions. Syria's positive stance enjoys the respect of world peoples and governments. If the Israel Government sincerely seeks peace, then peace is within reach and is represented in implementing UN resolutions, and ending Israel's organized war of repression and annihilation against the Lebanese and the Palestinians. The Israel rulers, who constantly threaten Arab and Muslim states, call for disarming the Arabs, and place themselves above international law, charters, and norms, are called on to prove their peaceful intentions by officially declaring their commitment to international community's resolutions and policies, and to an immediate halt to their barbaric attacks on Lebanon and their oppressive policy in the occupied territories. They are also called on to stop the arms race, halt the manufacturing of nuclear weapons, and resort to the Security Council and its resolutions in order to reach just and lasting peace. When such a peace is attained there will no longer be a need for guns, tanks, aircraft, and missiles.

Debate Showed Shamir, Rabin 'Essentially the Same'

JN1706070592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 17 Jun 92

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN discusses the question of peace. It says: Between the intransigence of Shamir and Rabin and the tolerance of the world community, the Arab cause has entered new labyrinths, the Middle East crisis has grown more complicated, and solutions have appeared anything but feasible.

TISHRIN notes Shamir's remarks in the televised debate; *namely, that he will* not give up a single inch of the Golan, the West Bank, Gaza, Jerusalem, and southern Lebanon. The paper also points out Rabin's assertion that he will not return to the pre-June 1967 border, and that he does not want to see Palestinians walking the streets of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and Yafo.

The paper adds: If we are to evaluate the positions of the Israeli officials, we find nothing to serve the cause of peace. Yitzhaq Shamir does not conceal his plan to settle millions of new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. On every occasion, he announces that he acknowledges no right to the Palestinian people except the right to leave. Yitzaq Rabin, for his part, is looking forward to establishing a third Jewish entity. At the same time, he wants the Arab land, not its citizens.

Shamir and Rabin, therefore, are essentially the same, says the paper. They agree on the rejection of a just peace and its requirements. It is no coincidence that in the televised debate, both of them did not rule out the possibility of forming a joint government and establishing an alliance between their parties.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The Middle East is apt to further crises and turbulence. Perhaps the non-stop Zionist attacks against southern Lebanon are pointing to the evil schemes the Israeli leaders are preparing against the entire region.

In conclusion, TISHRIN says: Israel continues to defy the global community and its resolutions, and to violate international laws and conventions. Peace is still a dream, and it will continue to be so if the world and its influential countries fail to use their weight to curb Israel's intransigence and force Israel to implement UN resolutions.

Humanitarian Assistance Slated for Afghanistan

JN1606181792 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic has conveyed to the Afghan ambassador the Syrian Government's decision to send humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

The assistance mainly includes food as a contribution by Syria to ease the sufferings and difficulties which the friendly Afghan people are facing at present.

Afghanistan

Islamic Unity Party Participates in Jehad Council

LD1606182292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Today for the first time eight representatives of the Afghan Islamic Unity Party [Hezb-e Wahdat Eslami] participated in the 51-member Jehad Council of Afghanistan.

The Voice and Vision correspondent in Kabul reports that in the wake of the agreement between the Islamic Unity Party and the provisional government of Afghanistan on the number of the representatives of that party [in the Government] and ways for them to participate in the administration of that country, today Messrs Khalili, Mortazavi, Mohaqqezadeh, Mo'alemzadeh, Mansuri, 'Erfani, Shafaq, and Zaki were present at the Jehad Council of Afghanistan.

It has been agreed that one representative from the Islamic Unity Party will participate in the 11-member Leadership Council of Afghanistan. Three others from the said party are to assume supervision of three ministries.

Mojadeddi Warned Not To Extend Interim Tenure

BK1506154992 Hong Kong AFP in English 1523 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, June 15 (AFP)—One of the main Afghan political leaders Monday warned Sebghatollah Mojaddedi not to try extending his tenure as head of the interim government in Kabul.

The chief of the Ettehad-e Eslami party, Rasool Sayyaf, advised Mojaddedi to transfer power after his two-month term ends on June 28.

"No one shall be allowed to stay in power for a single day after the agreed time," Sayyaf said in a statement from Afghanistan, released here by the information department of his faction.

He accused Mojaddedi of making "illegal" appointments and taking other "unilateral" decisions "in violation" of the April 24 accord under which he assumed power in April.

The multi-party agreement envisages replacement of the present administration by a new interim government to be headed by Borhanoddin Rabbani, chief of the Jamiat-e Eslami group.

"Mojaddedi has transgressed his limited legal authority granted to him by virtue of the accord," Sayyaf said.

In Islamabad, President Ghulam Ishaq on Monday received visiting Afghan leaders including Rabbani, Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Pir Seyyed Ahmad Gilani, Haji Din Mohammad and Qotboddin Hilal.

An official statement said the president reiterated Pakistan's support to the April accord and told the Afghan leaders that Islamabad desired a consolidation of peace in Afghanistan through the political process.

The statement quoted Rabbani as saying that there was tranquility in almost all Afghan provinces and that the difficulties were being resolved through dialogue and conciliation.

Rabbani told the president that it was not the militia but the criminals who presented a major law and order problem in Kabul, the statement said.

Foreign Ministry Asks for 'Urgent' Financial Aid

LD1506170592 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Statement by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, issued in Kabul on 15 June—announcer-read]

[Text] The Islamic State of Afghanistan, based on the desire to serve the Muslim people of the country and to meet the people's urgent needs, to pave the ground for the return of refugees and the reconstruction of the war-torn country of Afghanistan, has appealed to all world states and international organizations to render assistance to the Islamic State of Afghanistan, which has limited resoures and means to achieve this aim.

In expressing gratitude, it is worth mentioning that so far a number of the countries and international organizations have given a positive response to this appeal made by the Islamic State of Afghanistan by sending urgent assistance. Also in this connection the Islamic State of Afghanistan highly values the humanitarian efforts made by Mr Butrus Ghali, UN secretary general and Mr. Benon Sevan, his special envoy and deputy, who recently once again by issuing a statement on 5 June 1992 drew the attention of the world countries and international organizations to provide assistance to meet the urgent need of Afghanistan's people and to assist the return of refugees and the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan believes that in general the donor countries and the international community, by providing urgent financial and technical assistance, will give a positive response to the demand made by the people and government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan declares that will it try, by using all its resources, to provide necessary conditions to attract and to utilize the international assistance. It will spare no efforts and cooperation in this direction.

India

U.S. Technology Sanctions Termed 'Unjustified'

BK1706080092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] India has described as unjustified the sanctions imposed by the United States on nations striving to

develop space technology for peaceful uses. The Indian Space Research Organization chairman, Professor U.R. Rao, told a UN committee that true international cooperation could prosper only in an atmosphere of mutual trust and equality. He called for active encouragement to all technology transfers and agreements for peaceful applications of space technology. Professor Rao's criticism came in the wake of the fresh missile sanctions announced by the U.S. Commerce Department against India and 19 other countries.

Meanwhile, the Russian president, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has made it clear that he stood by the rocket deal with India. Mr. Yeltsin, now on a visit to the United States, told newsmen in Washington that he had not discussed the deal with American leaders so far. He also clarified that his country does not have any problems with India.

Diplomat Attacked by Gunmen in Pakistan

BK1606125292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] A message just received says that the Indian counselor general in Karachi, Mr. Shrivastava, was attacked by some unknown gunmen around 1400 today. The unknown assailants damaged the car in which Mr. Shrivastava was traveling. Mr. Shrivastava managed to escape three attempts by the assailants to harm him and reached a nearby police station. The attackers escaped when the officer on duty at the police station challenged them. Our Islamabad correspondent Suresh Chopra reports that the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. S.K. Lamba, has lodged a strong protest with the Pakistani Government over the incident. This was the second such incident involving Mr. Shrivastava in one month's period.

Russia 'Ready' To Shift Arms Factories to India

BK1606162392 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] New Delhi, June 16 (AFP)—Russia is ready to shift some of its arms factories to India and is equally eager to set up a joint space launch facility here, Russia's ambassador to New Delhi was quoted as saying Tuesday.

Moscow has indicated its willingness to shift units which produce frontline aircraft, tanks, armored cars and other military equipment for use in India and export to third countries, ambassador Anatoliy Dryukov said.

"Previously we only supplied equipment: planes, tanks, armored cars," THE PIONEER newspaper quoted him as saying in an interview.

"But I think we can go further and set up joint ventures in order to produce military equipment not only for consumption (in India) but also for selling to third countries," he added. "From our side there is readiness."

"The idea has been under discussion, but I think we have now to move from an exchange of views to the concrete deal, the contract," Dryukov added.

The former Soviet Union was India's biggest arms supplier, and relations between Moscow and New Delhi have been on a slow upswing since taking a beating following the collapse of the communist regime.

The envoy also said Russia was interested in setting up a joint space launch facility near the equator in India since it had lost its Baikonur cosmodrome to breakaway Kazakhstan.

He did not specify if discussions had been held with India on the subject.

There was no immediate comment in New Delhi on Dryukov's offer of arms factories transfers to India or the proposal for a joint space launcher.

Dryukov said prospects of cooperation in space between his country and India were "huge" and expressed confidence that Moscow would transfer controversial rocket technology to New Delhi despite U.S. opposition.

The United States slapped a two-year ban in May on an Indian space agency and a Russian firm after they refused to review a 200-million-dollar deal for a rocket engine to be supplied by Moscow.

Dryukov said Russia, China, France and now India had the technology to launch satellites.

"That's why the process (of India-Russia space cooperation) will continue despite the efforts of some American companies to preserve (their) monopoly," he told THE PIONEER. "They won't be able to."

The ambassador described Russians as "very bitter" at the United States for "virtually holding a gun to Russia's head and forcing the former superpower to toe its line."

"But Russia will bounce back as a world power, and start playing a role in keeping with its status," he was quoted as saying, adding that he felt it would take five to 10 years for his country's economy to recover."

Air Force To Obtain Trainer Jets 'Soon'

BK1606093592 Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jun 92 p 5

[Text] Pune, June 6 (UNI)—The Indian Air Force (IAF) will soon get the much needed Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) for training of pilots, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal N.C. Suri today said.

In an informal chat with reporters after reviewing the passing out parade of the 82nd course of the National Defence Academy at Khadakwasla here this morning, Air Chief Marshal Suri said the IAF had shortlisted two planes—the British Hawk and the Franco-German Alfa jet—after evaluating their performance. The Defence Ministry had since consented to the acquisition of the aircraft.

Asked how soon would the Air Force get the new AJTs, he said "ask the Defence Minister" as the government will have to take a decision in this regard.

He said the Air Force proposal for an AJT was pending with the government since 1986.

On the phasing out of the older generation planes, the Air Chief said it was an expensive business. He, however, added that "if something becomes dangerous to operational preparedness, it has to be phased out."

The IAF recently withdrew the British Canberras from their earlier role of heavy bombing and they are now being regrouped at a northern base for a different task—of target toeing for firing practice by the Air Force, Navy and the Army. The Canberras have been in service for more than 35 years, he said.

Asked if it was cost-effective maintaining a huge variety of aircraft in the IAF compared to other neighbouring countries, the Air Chief quipped, "we have become masters in maintaining a diverse fleet of aircraft. It is a great accomplishment."

In reply to a question on the availability of spares following the disintegration of the former Soviet Union, the chief said there were problems but the government was taking steps in this direction.

He said the Air Force was continuing with its plans to meet contingencies and more indigenisation had been undertaken to meet the requirements.

On the possibility of having woman pilots, the Air Chief said it was for the government to decide.

Defence budget: Air Chief Marshal Suri reiterated that the cut in Defence Budget was not at the cost of operational defence preparedness. Defence preparedness was of prime importance even though India's defence budget was much less as compared to the neighbouring countries, adds PTI.

"We are twice as much effective operationally at half the cost", he added. [sentence as published]

Referring to the financial crisis facing the country, the Air Chief said defence forces had contributed significantly, adding that vintage aircraft continued to be in use in the forces.

Stressing on the need for professionalism coupled with the knowledge of high technology, he said mastery of the weapon system was crucial and it was necessary to achieve the highest standards in the shortest time.

Further on 16 June Trade Union Strike

'Stray Incidents' Reported

BK1606131492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Stray incidents of violence have been reported from Kerala, West Bengal and Bihar in the wake of the strike call given by some central trade unions. The INTUC [Indian National Trade Union Congress] and Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh did not participate in the strike, which has evoked partial response. Essential services were exempted from the strike call given to protest against the government's economic and industrial policies. Train services in most parts of the country remained normal, but were badly disrupted in West Bengal affecting Southeastern and Northeast Frontier Railways. The Indian Airlines operated a curtailed schedule.

In Kerala, a truck was burned at Chengalkulam in Malappuram while police fired in the air at Manthala near Trivandrum to disperse a mob. In West Bengal, one person was reported killed in a clash between CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] and Congress-I supporters at Birpara in Jalpaiguri District. There were reports of clashes in Bijpur in Darjeeling also. The state chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basus, has claimed that the strike was total. The union minister of state for youth affairs, Miss. Mamata Banerjee, along with her partymen, are on a fast in South Calcutta to protest against what she called a politically-motivated bundh [strike] and aimed to press for a repoll in Ballygunge.

In Bihar, shops and markets were closed in Patna, but vehicles are plying. An agency report says that there was little response to the strike in the tribal region of the state and work in the coal mines was normal. Defense establishments and factories in the industrial city of Kanpur are functioning normally.

In Delhi, life is normal and buses are plying. Banking services however were disrupted. According to reports received by the Labor Ministry from various parts of the country, life is normal all over except in West Bengal.

The sponsoring committee of the Indian trade unions has claimed success of today's strike. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi, the spokesman of the committee, Mr. N.K. Tangre, said that the response to the strike indicated the workers's disapproval of the new economic and industrial policies of the government.

Strike 'Failed' To Evoke Response

BK1606145692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The minister of state for labor and coal, Mr. P.A. Sangma, has said that the industrial strike called by the left trade unions against the economic policies of the government has failed to evoke response from the people. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi

today, he said that the situation was near-normal throughout the country except in West Bengal. Life in Kerala and Bihar was partially affected.

Mr. Sangma said that the strike passed off peacefully barring some minor incidents in Bihar and Kerala. Railways, telecommunications, and road transport services were normal except in West Bengal, Bihar, and Kerala. The Indian Airlines operated fully with the revised schedule. Air India also operated all its flights as per schedule. All major ports and docks barring Calcutta, Cochin, and Visakhapatnam functioned normally. Mr. Sangma said that the effect of the strike has been only 10 percent which covers West Bengal also. He said that the banking services however were affected throughout the country. Out of the 511 coal mines, work in 68 mines was affected partially. However, the overall production was maintained. The minister said that against 14,800 wagons daily, 12,800 wagons were loaded today. Mr. Sangma thanked the INTUC [Indian National Trade Union Congress] and other trade unions and workers who did not participate in the strike.

Replying to questions, the minister said that no worker will be retrenched without going through the legal process. He said that the Ray Committee is going through the various aspects of the workers' problems.

'Millions' Join Strike

BK1606165492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1653 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] New Delhi, June 16 (AFP)—Millions of workers and white-collar employees Thursday struck work across India responding to leftist union calls to denounce the government's economic liberalization, unions and reports said.

The government and workers' representatives however made conflicting claims about the impact of the day-long strike.

Union leaders said an estimated 15 million stayed away from work, more than the 12 million who staged a similar action in November, closing down thousands of factories and other establishments and almost paralyzing some regions.

The strike was largely peaceful, barring stray group clashes and stonings which left one communist dead and some 20 people injured, the powerful communist-led Center of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) said.

The death was reported in West Bengal during a clash between communists and supporters of India's ruling Congress (I) party.

"The workers have again reiterated their unequivocal disapproval against the economic and industrial policy of the government at IMF (International Monetary Fund) dictates," the CITU said in a statement.

"It is a strike against the economic policies," CITU general secretary M.K. Pandhe said.

Pande, whose union belongs to the Communist Party of India- Marxist (CPI-M), the largest of the Indian communist parties, warned of "bigger struggles" unless the the policies were reviewed by the 11-month-old government.

"The response has been beyond our expectations," he told reporters.

The CPI-M's politburo endorsed Pande's claims, saying in a press statement here that workers had "magnificently responded" to the strike call.

Indian Minister of State for Labor P.A. Sangma at the same time described it as "a total failure."

"Except in West Bengal, the situation has been near normal all over the country," Sangma told reporters here.

Earlier, he said the strike would cost India some 115 million dollars in production loss.

West Bengal state is administered by an opposition CPI-M- dominated Marxist alliance.

Other union officials said the strike crippled the state-owned Indian Airlines, which could operate only 17 of its normal 220 flights, and government-run banks and insurance firms which were shut in most parts of India.

The strike paralyzed posts and telecommunications in many states, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

The shutdown also affected in varying degrees such sectors as textiles, steel, coal, fertilizer, power, engineering, defense factories, oil and ports, besides central and state government offices, news reports said.

The government and the ruling Congress (I) party had repeatedly appealed to the workers not to join the strike, branding it as "politically motivated."

The strike brought life to a standstill in West Bengal and Bihar states, both in the east, and Kerala, a Marxist bastion in the south, PTI reported. Ruling parties in West Bengal and Bihar, which is ruled by the opposition centrist Janata Dal (People's Party), had called for a total shutdown. CITU chief Pandhe said at least 18 workers were injured when they were set upon by activists of Bajrang Dal, a Hindu militant group, near an ordnance factory near the northern city of Kanpur.

A train driver was also injured in stoning in Kerala, PTI said.

Tens of thousands of strikers staged noisy demonstrations outside their banks and offices, while factory workers marched around the industrial areas, news reports said. Thousands of police and paramilitary forces were on duty.

Nearly 10,000 potential strikers were arrested in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, where police made 20,000 fresh arrests Tuesday, Pandhe said, but there was no independent confirmation of the figure.

No state escaped unaffected, PTI reported. But Bombay, India's financial capital and once home to militant unions, and nearby regions wore a near normal look, although the workers went on strike in some places.

In New Delhi, more than 200 small and medium industrial units were closed, the CITU said.

In West Bengal protestors squatted on rail tracks, crippling train services to the east.

Rice Husk-Powered Thermal Plant Commissioned

BK1606151192 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] The world's first thermal power station utilizing rice husk as fuel was commissioned in Jalkheri in Punjab on Sunday [14 June] last. According to a press release, the 10-megawatt power station has been connected to the northern grid. With this, India has achieved a major breakthrough in tapping nonconventional energy sources. Funded jointly by the Punjab State Electricity Board and Department of Nonconventional Energy Sources, the pilot project has been executed by the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited [BHEL] on a turnkey basis. The fluidized bed boiler, one of the main equipment of this power station, has been designed and manufactured by BHEL's Tiruchi plant.

Iran

Communique Issued on Visit by Georgian Delegation

LD1606184392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] At the end of the high-ranking Georgian delegation's visit to Iran, both countries released a joint communique.

The communique states, in part: Both parties agreed about noninterference in each other's domestic affairs and also reciprocal respect and respect for territorial integrity. They also stated that they are ready to expand good-neighborly and friendly relations in the political, economic, and cultural fields.

The communique stresses that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Georgia can actively cooperative, like friendly countries, to remove regional crises and to restore peace and stability in the region. At the same time, both parties expressed their anxiety over the intensification of the crisis situation in the Caucasus—especially in Karabakh—and stressed the need for a peaceful settlement of that problem.

The Georgian delegation assessed as positive the Islamic Republic of Iran's initiative for settling the crisis in Karabakh.

The communique stresses that the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes Georgia's initiative about achieving a peaceful settlement in the Karabakh region. Both parties agreed to exchange views about each other's initatives in that regard.

Habibi, Namibian President Discuss Cooperation

LD1606133392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] First Vice President Habibi, currently in Namibia, met Namibian President Nujoma today. During this 90-minute meeting—referring to the issues raised at the Rio summit and the response by the United States and other Northern countries—Mr. Nujoma said: This Summit proved the need for the countries of the South to rely on themselves, more than ever before. He added that we are seriously engaged in rebuilding our country, and we consider this move to be more difficult than our struggle against colonialism. Nujoma stated that we believe in South-South cooperation, and Iran can be one of our major supporters at the international level.

Referring to the existing grounds for economic cooperation between both countries, President Nujoma listed his country's diverse potentials in natural resources, mining, meat production, and fisheries. He then stated: During my visit to Tehran we reached some favorable agreements with President Hashemi- Rafsanjani. We will eagerly pursue implementing all the agreements.

Mr. Habibi wished Mr. Nujoma success and noted the good relations between both countries. He said that we should place implementing the Tehran agreements on our agenda. Habibi said that during the course of this visit, experts accompanying our delegation will review the issues agreed on in Tehran, specifically in the oil and fisheries fields.

Mr. Habibi, while commending President Nujoma's view points, added that we are sensitively following the developments in South Africa and other regions of this continent. But one should not be optimistic with the course of developments in South Africa.

Mr. Habibi concluded by noting the significance of the Persian Gulf region and reiterating the crucial role that regional stability plays in global peace and security.

Television Programs Broadcast on Tajik Network

LD1606165792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Since last night—during the auspicious 'Id al-Adha—Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran programs entitled Bonds of Fraternity began to be broadcast to the recently independent Republic of Tajikistan.

The head of Tajik television expressed satisfaction with the Bonds of Fraternity broadcast and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for enabling the permanent broadcasting of the program. He stated: From now on,

various Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran programs will be broadcast—simultaneously, but with a few minutes delay—on Tajik television.

Following the Bonds of Friendship program, Tajik television also broadcast parts of the political program entitled The Weekly Report. Parts of the Qom Friday prayers; a special program marking 'Id al-Adha; and the 2100 newscast of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran's first network were broadcast with a 30-minute delay.

Customs Checkpoints in East Azerbaijan Planned

LD1606180592 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tabriz, East Azerbaijan Prov., June 16, IRNA—Iran is to establish six new customs check-points in northern borders of East Azerbaijan province to facilitate trade between Iran and her northern republics, especially Azerbaijan, a customs official told IRNA here today.

He added the border customs would serve as active centers for trade, transit of goods and overland travel in the future.

According to the same source, the total non-oil exports in 1370 (March 1991-March 1992) from Tabriz customs was worth over 4,400 billion rials, up by 450 per cent as compared to the preceding year.

IRNA Cites TEHRAN TIMES on Hostages

LD1406100792 Tehran IRNA in English 0754 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 14, IRNA—Two German hostages, the last Westerners in captivity in Lebanon, are to be released within 48 hours and handed over to a German official in Damascus, the English daily TEHRAN TIMES reported Sunday quoting its correspondent in Beirut.

Quoting informed sources, the report said that all the obstacles on the way of release of the two German hostages, Thomas Kemptner, 31, and Heinrich Struebig, 51, have been removed.

Quoting other sources, the daily also reported that German State Minister in Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Chancellery Bernd Shcmidbauer is due to fly from Bonn to Damascus today or tomorrow to receive the German hostages who were caputred in 1989.

Jordanian Envoy Presents Credentials to President

LD0806091492 Tehran IRNA in English 0801 GMT 7 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 8, IRNA—The newly-appointed Jordanian Ambassador to Tehran, Yasin Istanbuli, presented his credentials to president Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here Monday [8 Jun].

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani told the Jordanian diplomat that he could play an effective role in promoting bilateral relations and cooperation following several years of strained ties. He also welcomed broadening of Tehran-Amman cooperation in various fields.

Istanbuli expressed pleasure that with the help of Iranian officials he will be successful in his mission and strengthening of historical ties between the two countries.

Iran broke diplomatic relations with Jordan following the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution. The relations were resumed in January 28, 1991.

UNESCO Head Cited at News Agencies Conference

LD1606182192 Tehran IRNA in English 1346 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 16, IRNA—In a message to the Sixth General Conference of the Nonaligned News Agencies Pool [NANAP], currently underway here, the UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor wished success for the meeting.

"UNESCO looks forward to continued close cooperation with NANAP, and with the Nonaligned Movement more generally, in fulfillment of our common aims," he said in his message to the conference, being hosted for the first time by the ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY.

The conference is being attended by delegates from 60 nonaligned countries as well as international organizations and media organizations.

Mayor said UNESCO has worked closely in the past with NANAP on a number of projects, notably in the field of training and research, "and I take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to this partnership between our two organizations."

"In furtherance of the universal right of freedom of opinion and expression and in pursuit of its constitutional objective of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples through all means of mass communication, UNESCO has consistently been concerned with the development of the media in all its member states.

"Its new communication strategy for the 1990s was defined by its general conference at its 25th session in 1989. The program embodied in its medium term plan for 1990-1995, entitled "Communication in the Service of Humanity", has three main objectives: To ensure a free flow of information at international as well as national levels, to ensure its wider and better-balanced dissemination without any obstacle to freedom of expression, and to strengthen communication capacities in the developing countries so that they may participate more actively in the communication process."

Mayor said the new program committed UNESCO to work for the development of free, independence and pluralistic media in both the public and private sectors.

"It also enjoins the organization and its member states to ensure that journalists have the freedom to report and the fullest possible access to information, and that public, private and other media in the developing countries are provided with the conditions and resources necessary to consolidate their independence."

He said UNESCO's new communication strategy likewise aims at reinforcing the International Program for the Development of Communication (IPDC) in order to increase resources for the development of communication. The IPDC, he said, as UNESCO's main operational arm in this sphere, receives project proposals from all regions of the world and can now support projects emanating from sources other than the public sector.

Funds are pledged by donors once a year at the meetings of its intergovernmental council, which decides on their allocation, he said, adding that since the IPDC was established in 1980, a total of 22 million dollars has been pledged to its special account for some 375 projects in over 80 developing countries.

At the same time, he said, a number of funds-in-trust projects have been implemented for the benefit of news agencies in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and in the Arab states. As examples, he mentioned the assistance currently provided to 38 news agencies in Africa through these sub-regional projects called Wanad (West Africa), Canad (Central Africa) and Seanad (Southern and East Africa), to a total of 12 million US dollars, provided by the Federal Republic of Germany. Other current funds-in-trust projects are sponsored by France and Denmark, he concluded.

*Purchase of Mojahedin Weapons Alleged

92AS1056C London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jun 92 p 1

[Text] Dozens of military experts from the Islamic Republic arrived in Kabul and are engaged in purchasing the modern weapons held by the Afghan Mojahidin.

Reliable sources providing London KEYHAN with this report added that these experts are employees of the Ministry of Defense but are protected and watched by guards in civilian clothing.

One source who had met and had a brief talk with several Iranian experts added that the goal of the experts of the Islamic Republic who have arrived in Kabul on a military plane from Tehran is to find and buy the modern weapons held by the Afghan Mojahidin organizations, especially the two main groups of Hezb [as published] and Jam'iyyat-e Eslami.

Among those "purchases" are "Scud" missiles made in the former Soviet Union and heavy antihelicopter "shoulder" missiles made in the United States.

Iranian experts have explained that although Iranian forces, including the guards, are equipped with ground-to-air "Scud" missiles, the kind of missile that the former Soviet Union had placed at the disposal of the communist government of Afghanistan and that has now fallen into the hands of the Mojahidin is much more advanced and definitive.

The Islamic Republic also intends to purchase several hundred semiheavy tanks, various types of SAM missiles, antitank rockets and MI-80 helicopters from the Afghans.

Culture, Islamic Guidance Minister To Resign

NC1706134992 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Tehran, June 17 (AFP) - Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister 'Ali Muhammad Khatami-Ardakani has offered his resignation after being criticized in press reports here for his "liberal" attitude, the TEHRAN TIMES newspaper reported Wednesday.

The paper, citing an informed source, said Khatami-Ardakani had been "under pressure from a section of the Persian press (that) has recently been criticizing him for adopting a liberal attitude in the cultural field."

Khatami-Ardakani, 49, had held the post since 1980.

The TEHRAN TIMES said he had presented his resignation to President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, but added that its sources could not say if it had been accepted. The TIMES, which usually reflects government thinking, said other papers—KEYHAN, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and RESALAT—had been critical of Khatami-Ardakani.

Analysts here said the resignation could signify a move by Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who reportedly sought Khatami-Ardakani's departure, to take full control of a ministry dominated by anti-Western radicals.

Khatami-Ardakani had allowed radicals to take charge of certain key posts in his ministry, notably those dealing with the press.

Among possible successors named by the TEHRAN TIMES are Vice President Hasan Ebrahim Habibi, journalist Massih Moadjeri and Mohammad Reyshari, a representative of spiritual guide 'Ali Hoseyni Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Seminar Views Using Persian Language in Broadcasts

President's Remarks Noted

LD1606171392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] The second seminar about using the Persian language in Voice and Vision broadcasts opened at Jam-e Jam television center today with a speech by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

During the opening ceremony—during which Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision, and a group of prominent scientific and literary personalities and Persian literature experts were present—Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need to maintain, safeguard, and develop the Persian language as a valuable heritage. He stated: Today, we should not think of the Persian language merely as a regional language, because a language that exchanges messages between scientific, ethical, and artistic circles worldwide should most definitely be powerful and adequate.

The language that is currently at our disposal is capable of that mission, and we are able to converse, within the same available framework, about the supreme human concepts and all scientific and human achievements.

The president added: After faith and belief, language is the most important instrument for solidifying unity and cooperation, and it is a device with which a nation can communicate with its own past. He noted: Any nation whose language enjoys a wider currency and amplitude can assume a higher prominence and responsibility.

He add: We should protect our language from misuse so that future generations will not be deprived of their own scientific, literary, and historical heritage.

The chairman of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution [President Hashemi-Rafsanjani] added: We should endeavor to preserve the growth of this living and developing being. Language progress should never stop, and supreme meanings should be presented in the appropriate forms of letters, words, and the beautiful arrangement of sentences each day so that we are able to achieve a powerful language and an acceptable literature.

The president stated: The Voice and Vision is the most powerful source for appropriately using the spoken and written word, and he added: This seminar should think of ways to coordinate with a wider circle and cooperate with literary figures, university lecturers, and school teachers to carry out this great mission.

He appreciated the efforts of the Supreme Council for Editing in the Voice and Vision and expressed hope that more investment will be made to further this valuable task.

According to our correspondent, before the president's speech, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision Organization, elaborated about the importance of the Persian language and its effects on the world today. He said: The Voice and Vision—as the greatest domestic media that is also present in other countries—has already assumed the task of correcting and expanding the Persian language.

During the three-day seminar, experts and specialists will discuss the status of the Persian language in the programs of the Voice and Vision and the insufficiencies. They will also exchange views about ways of overcoming the insufficiencies.

Commentary Views Protecting Language

NC1606130992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God, the seminar about the Persian language was inaugurated on 13 Jun with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who called on all writers, teachers, and professors to spur their efforts for the growth and evolution of the Persian language.

The seminar about the Persian language is being held at the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and will continue until this evening. Experts, officials, and those interested in the issue will debate and discuss the difficulties of the written and spoken language in the mass media. The mass media play a considerable role in preserving and developing the mother tongue. Most messages are conveyed to the people via the mass media, and most contacts are made this way. In all areas, the written and spoken language is the main means of communication.

Links between the people in a society and the reciprocal ties in the society are forged by means of the written or spoken language. By using language, a human being augments his awareness and becomes acquainted with thousands of new topics daily. Language is the main agent for the transfer of human knowledge, and today, with the changes and progress in communication methods, the role of this agent has become more important and complex.

Today the people have access to the radio, television, newspapers, weeklies, and other means of communication, and exchange their knowledge. It is not a secret that the need to safeguard the national language is very important to every nation. The Persian language is an important cultural heritage for Iranians that should be protected from being tarnished in any way in daily life.

One of the colonialist practices of the past was to distort national languages. By placing importance on the national language and making it more dynamic, we can protect it from infiltration by foreign cultures and assist in its development and progress.

Experts in the Farsi language believe that to protect and invigorate the Persian language, one should look to the mass media, as radio and television particularly have the most contact with people across the country. Most linguists believe that simple language should be employed in the mass media so that the listener or reader can clearly comprehend the message being conveyed. In this regard, the writer should abide by instructions and write precisely, so that the Persian language can be purged of impurities.

With the proliferation of various sciences, it is up to Iranian linguistic experts to incorporate the new terminology with suitable Persian equivalents. The Persian language has the capacity to absorb extensive vocabulary, but for this capacity to be correctly utilized, it is essential that linguistic academies increase their efforts.

Today more than ever before, the mass media needs experts who are proficient in translating foreign terms into Persian, so that the Persian language is safe from the onslaught of extraneous elements. We all must filter out discrepancies and incongruities from the Persian language and strive for a pure and dynamic language. After all, a large part of our cultural identity is our language, and our language should be given its due worth.

Commentary Urges Correct Usage

LD1606173392 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1500 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The second seminar about the Persian language in the Voice and Vision, which started yesterday, continued today at the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran station. During this seminar, various speakers addressed participants about various linguistic topics and the way in which the Persian language is used in radio and television. [passage omitted]

Lack of attention to using language and perpetrating gross grammatical and conceptual mistakes are among factors that contribute to weakening a language. Unfortunetly, in recent years, there has been some neglect of the Persian language in certain cases, and this neglect has led to the entry of foreign words and expressions into the language without the necessary cultural changes to make the new words comprehensible. [passage omitted]

This lack of attention leads to a language being drained of its basic cultural identity. A look at the press and the books published in our country shows that most of these are either full of foreign words and expressions or full of gross grammatical and spelling mistakes. All of these are signs of being careless about our ancient and classical language that is the language of Ferdowsi's "Shahnameh".

The truth is that at present, the Persian language is not receiving the kind of care and attention it ought to and should receive. This lack of attention is continuous from primary level education to the university level, and, unfortunetly, media writers are also beset by it.

The mission of the press, radio, and television in promoting and extending the Persian language is a great enough mission—one that is equal to people being aware of new ideas, correct verbal and written usage. Attention should especially be paid to the fact that radio and television listeners and viewers constitute a large proportion of the people, and carelessness in verbal mistakes leads to circulating and repeating these mistakes among people.

Now, if we are to accept reality and pursue the task of correcting written and verbal language, we should take special note of the role of editors, since it is they who correct the written language from the point of view of style and grammar.

It is hoped that staging the second seminar about the Persian languages will motivate all those who work in the media, press, and publications of the country so that they may make greater efforts to rid the Persian language of its gaps and existing weaknesses.

Radio, Television Officials Discuss Issues

LD1606101192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0700 GMT 11 Jun 92

["In Line With the People, In Step With Officials" program; phone-in program with Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, director general of the Voice and Vision Organization, VVO; Mr. Mehdi Tabeshian, deputy of the Voice and Vision Organization; Mr. Mohammad Hasan Zowraq, deputy in charge of program making for the radio of the Voice and Vision Organization; Mr. 'Abdol Naser Hemmati, political deputy of the Voice and Vision Organization; Mr. Mehdi Faridzadeh, managing director of the first television channel; and technical deputy Mr. Tabataba'i; moderated by unidentified announcer—live]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] [passage omitted] Now let us answer some questions raised by our listeners:

[Unidentified caller] In view of the remarks made by the honorable leader, stressing that at this particular time the most important issue is the cultural onslaught of the West; what are the VVO's plans to halt this onslaught? I would like to point out that whenever the radio and television programs improve and diversify, the price of television sets falls drastically and vice-versa. Are there any plans to reduce the destructive effect of television sets?

[Announcer] Mr. Hashemi please.
[Hashemi] It is an interesting question. According to the instructions of the esteemed leader, we confront the cultural onslaught in two ways: First, we launch a counterattack by warning the public of the danger posed by the attacking culture, and we teach the people how to confront the onslaught. [passage omitted] Second, we promote our own social values; for instance, radio and television stress the importance of family life as a social unit. This is one of the most essential steps to confront the cultural onslaught, for an alien culture considers the family unit as its enemy. When there is a happy family atmosphere comprising the mother, the father, and their children, the external pressure will not succeed. But if the enemy were to succeed in weakening or undermining the family unit, he would have a better chance of infiltrating our society.

Through our radio and television programs, we therefore try to strengthen the family unit. We inform the family of

the danger posed by the scourge of narcotics, pornographic films, and other things. We raise these matters within the framework of Islamic culture and Islamic values. I would like to reassure our dear listener that I agree with his comments about the link between our programs and price of television sets. We thus strive to upgrade, diversify, and increase programs on radio and television all the time so that members of the family, the adults as well as the children, enjoy at least one special program daily.

[Announcer] Thank you Mr. Hashemi. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] If you don't mind, we shall now listen to some phone calls from our compatriots.

[Unidentified caller] Thank you, Mr. Hashemi, for installing the television relay mast of (?Kazareh), a village in Damghan. I would also like to say that the Second Program cannot be seen at all here, but we can see the First Program all right.

[Second unidentified caller] Is there any possibility of having a separate network that could be called the education network, which could broadcast only educational programs?

[Third unidentified caller] I am calling from Borujerd. Could I ask Mr. Hashemi about the radio and television coverage of Borujerd city. The VVO at the moment extends its radio and television coverage to outside Iran; that is, to the cities of neighboring countries, but inside Iran there are some areas that find it difficult to even hear the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Please be kind enough to tell Mr. Hashemi: We have to either hear the Voice of Tehran Radio from Khorramabad—the capital city of Lorestan Province—or from Hamadan. The sound is very weak, whereas, for instance, in Dorud—which is also one of the Lorestan Province cities—they installed radio relay stations. So despite the fact that Borujerd has a relatively large number of inhabitants and higher standard of education, it is deprived of hearing the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [passage omitted]

[Fourth unidentified caller] I have a question to ask Mr. Hashemi: In District Six, the program of Channel 1 is cut after 1200 when they are showing the soccer match program. People of this district then have to switch to Channel 3. But to receive the programs from Channel 3 they have to have an antenna installed, which is a bit of a problem. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] I am sorry to have to say that since our time is limited, replies to these questions will have to be fairly brief. Would you please oblige, Mr. Hashemi? The first question was in connection with not receiving television's Second Program in a village in Damghan.
[Hashemi] I pass the reply to Mr. Tabeshian.
[Tabeshian] Yes. There are some villages that take priority over others concerning installing radio and television transmitter equipment, due to the size of their population. In any case, we are glad that the first program can be seen in that village in Damghan, which our brother mentioned. Regarding the second program, if he sends us more information about the size of its population and the characterisitcs of other villages nearby, we will study these, and at the first opportunity we will try to provide them with the Second Program as well.

[Announcer] What about the education programme, Mr. Hashemi?
[Hashemi] Yes, there is the possibility of having every kind of network in the country, which needs funding. Otherwise, we are able to do whatever we want from the technological standpoint. At the same time, our Second Program is presently an educational one and carries daily three to four hours of classical or direct educational programs and some indirect educational programs, such as vocational training. We have tried to expand these programs to the level that our resources allow. If we were to create a third program devoted to educational issues—we did once estimate the budget for a third program and found that, with our resources then, it needed 1.2 billion tomans and that was in accordance with calculations for the year 1989—800 million tomans of this amount was in foreign exchange, and 400 million of it in rials. But provision for this funding was not made in the 5-year program.

[Announcer] Thank you. Regarding the call from Borujerd about coverage, Mr. Tabataba'i, would you please reply.
[Tabataba'i] The policy of the VVO as far as radio networks is concerned is that there are two radio networks: one nationwide network and one provincial network. The caller points out that if we want to receive Tehran's programs, we have to receive these from Khorramabad, which is evident, because we have facilities for provincial capitals to receive two programs. The first program is in fact Tehran's program that is relayed, and the second program is the one that can be used locally and relays local programs. As for Borujerd, this city can receive both programs from Khorramabad, which has local programs and those of the network, and from Durud, just as he pointed out; that is, radio's policy—bearing in mind the wide coverage that radio could have—is not that we would want to set up a radio in each city. Some locations are selected on grounds of their suitability to provide wide coverage.

Now it may be that accidental that one of these radio locations may be in Dorud and another radio location in another city; that is, not all the cities will have radios except provincial capitals.

[Announcer] The other question concerned District Six. I do not know if in terms of divisions this is the municipality district, because the caller was phoning from Tehran. He said that there is a break in channel one, and he has to switch to another channel to receive that program.
[Tabataba'i] To secure Tehran television's coverage, bearing in mind the size of Tehran, the existence of huge

buildings and the constantly changing size of this city—because large buildings are going up and may therefore affect coverage from the location of the Jam-e Jam television center itself—as in the past Tehran's main transmitters were at the Jam-e Jam premises, and we used to broadcast programs one and two on channel seven and channel nine. Therefore, because of new buildings, coverage could have been blacked out in some districts or the quality of the pictures could be affected. So we selected other locations so that the same programs could be repeated. In addition to channels seven and nine, we also broadcast Tehran's first network programs on channels five and 11. Perhaps the electricity supply to one of these stations is cut at 1100 [as heard], and that is why our listener who called has to switch to another channel. We will notify the department concerned so that the electricity is not cut off until the end of the program. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] We have a question for Mr. Hemmati about the news. Basically, what is our situation regarding news and overseas coverage?
[Hemmati] About overseas broadcasting: The overseas deputy is not here, but I will briefly answer on his behalf. Regarding international news broadcasting, we have news bulletins in all our programs that are at present broadcast all over the world. Our logic is that in any case—in terms of news, be it at home or abroad—we are at present on a course that is currently prevalent in the world as far as expanding communication is concerned; that is, there is a one-way news system in the world. That one-way news system is aimed at establishing sovereignty for what they nowadays call the New World Order. The West seeks to pursue its goals all over the world by using an important tool like communication. Therefore, because of the stress put on the Voice and Vision's code of conduct about it being independent in terms of news and covering world events based on the Islamic principles of the organ reflecting them, it means that the news broadcast is based on fact, has humanitarian aims, and lacks pressure and imposition of sovereignty stemming from deception or creating corruption in the people's fundamental movements. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr. Hemmati, what is our situation at present in terms of exchanging information and cooperation, particularly with Muslim countries?
[Hemmati] Exchange can be bilateral; that is, we could have mutual ties with a number of Muslim countries. That exists, particularly now that new Islamic countries have joined the ranks of Muslim countries. We had lengthy dialogues with them. We agreed to have a direct exchange of news.

Regarding a union, as you know, most countries in Asia are Muslim. We are expanding our ties with them in the form of a union. Taking part in the union of radio and television stations of Islamic countries is one of the aims of the Voice and Vision, to improve ties. Also, in Asia we are an active member of the ABU, the Asia and Oceania Radio and Television Union. Most of the countries in the union are Muslim countries. [passage omitted]

Majles Announces Names of Commission Chairmen

LD1606201592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] The Majles public relations department announced: Pursuant with Article 28 of the Majles internal regulations, the commissions of Agriculture and Rural Development; Legal and Judicial Affairs; Councils and Internal Affairs; Culture and Higher Education; Trade and Distribution Affairs; Mines and Industries; Education and Training; Housing and Urban Development; and Roads and Transport; and the commission for Compiling the Internal Regulations of the Majles have met. The following commission heads were selected:

Agriculture and Rural Development	Khoda-Karim Jal'Ali
Legal and Judicial Affairs	'Ali Asghar Baqani
Councils and Internal Affairs	'Ali Movahhedi-Savoji
Culture and Higher Education	Mohammad Hadi Abd-e Khoda'i
Trade and Distribution Affairs	Mohsen Mojtahed-Shabestari
Mines and Industries	Seyyed Hoseyn Hashemi
Education and Training	'Ali Akbar Musavi-Hoseyni
Housing and Urban Development	Mohammad Kazem Seyfiyan
Roads and Transportation	Mohammad Kazem Seyfiyan
Compiling Internal Regulations	'Ali Movahhedi-Savoji.

*Paper on Mashhad Anti-Regime Uprising

92AS1056A London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jun 92 pp 1, 9

[Text] While the law enforcement and security officials of the Islamic Republic continue to arrest the demonstrators and escalate security steps in Arak, the capital of Central Province, last Saturday (9 Khordad, 30 May), in the largest and bloodiest antiregime riots since the uprising of the supporters of Ayatollah Shari'atmadari in Tabriz early in the revolution, thousands of the people of Mashhad attacked banks, government offices, City Hall, government- and security-force vehicles, and stores affiliated with the government and revolutionary institutions. Guards and antiriot units of the security forces fired on the demonstrators, killing dozens of people and injuring dozens more. In exchange, the people rose to counter the security forces and the guards and, attacking them, beat and injured a group of officials. In some parts of the city, the officials and guards were forced to retreat and escape the returned attacks of the people.

Reuters reported on Sunday, 31 May, that the "sound of shooting shook the entire religious city of Mashhad, and, according to eyewitnesses, at least six people were killed."

Reuters added: "For 24 hours after the riots in Mashhad, a thick smoke still darkened the atmosphere of the city; stores were closed; businesses came to a complete stop; and government offices continue to be closed."

According to other reports, the number of people killed by the law enforcement and security officials by 2100 on Saturday reached 18, and dozens of injured people were hospitalized in Mashhad hospitals.

Nuri, the interior minister of the government of Rafsanjani, announced on Sunday in an interview with the reporter of the Islamic Republic radio that 300 demonstrators whom he called "violators," "disrupters," and "agents of corruption" had been arrested and will be punished decisively. Nuri called those arrested "the corrupters of the earth." Punishment for "the corrupters of the earth" in the Islamic Republic is usually death.

In regards to the repetition of events such as the great riot on Saturday in Mashhad, he warned the people that from now on such actions will be dealt with seriously. The minister of interior of the regime added: "Yesterday's (Saturday's) events were the result of the heinous and improper actions of a group of riffraff and corrupt people, and what occurred has saddened the alert and revolutionary people."

Nuri said: "The excessive kindness of the Islamic government has resulted in the impudence of a group of riffraff and hooligans." He then assured "the people and the sincere forces of the revolution" that the government and the judicial branch will impose the most severe punishment in regards to such individuals and will not tolerate such actions.

The French news agency also reported from Tehran on Sunday that the demonstrators beat up a group of "government officials." This news agency, quoting the governor general of Khorasan, added: "The attack of the rioters was premeditated, and the rioters, in attacking a law enforcement center, intended to disarm the agents stationed there."

The French news agency called the Mashhad riot the fourth widespread, violent riot in the Islamic Republic in the past year. Before Mashhad, the people of Esfahan, Shiraz, and Arak had vast demonstrations against the regime, and in large and small cities as well, there were reports of dozens of popular uprisings.

The interesting and unprecedented point was that not only did the international news agencies send detailed reports on the Mashhad uprising from Iran, but also for the first time the radio and television of the regime had to admit the occurrence of antigovernment demonstrations in that city. The government television showed scenes of destruction in Mashhad on its Sunday evening news. The regime had officially kept silent in regards to the large riots of Arak.

The French news agency announced that the riots started because of "protests against the eviction of a poor woman from a house in the seminary student housing areas" in Mashhad. The Islamic Republic government radio said: "On Saturday, following the actions of the City Hall agents to demolish a house built illegally in the city of Mashhad, a number of riffraff and hooligans took positions in that area, began to beat them and, in pursuit of their illegal actions in Mashhad, destroyed and set fire to a number of vehicles and buildings and plundered people's property and stores.

On Sunday, the regime gathered a group of supportive Hezbollahis in Mashhad in order for them to announce with their demonstrations their support for the government and their "hatred and disgust" with regard to the antiregime rioters. But these demonstrations did not reach the dimensions that the regime expected. After the bloody riots of Arak on Wednesday, 30 Ordibehesht [20 May], too, the Hezbollahis engaged in similar demonstrations.

Recently, following the widespread demonstrations of the people of Shiraz, which totally caught the regime by surprise, with the decision by the "Supreme National Security Council," the Hezbollah institutions have been assigned to be prepared to counter the people's demonstrations. In this regard, secret instructions have been sent to the security and law enforcement agencies. Among these instructions is calling to readiness the "oppressed mobilization" agency, which is apart of the Guards Corps, and also the "nuclei of resistance," made up of people of different localities, similar to the people's committees of communist countries. The leadership of the "resistance nuclei" comes from the mosques. From now on, the mobilization forces will counter the demonstrations of the opponents in order to limit the interference of the "official" law enforcement forces as much as possible and by creating fear in them, make them give up antiregime demonstrations.

The Islamic Republic radio reported on Friday, 8 Khordad [29 May] on the "expansive organization of the nuclei of Hezbollah throughout the country."

The riot in Mashhad occurred as the regime spent large sums and invited thousands of "foreign" guests to begin the week marking the anniversary of Khomeyni's death. In the widespread unrest of Esfahan, Shiraz, Arak, and Mashhad, the poorest people of these cities participated. As a result, the regime could not accuse these antigovernment uprisers of being "agents of imperialism" or "servants of the United States."

Details of Mashhad Riot

Available reports from Mashhad indicate that the people's demonstrations began following the attack of Mashhad City Hall agents on the houses that were built without building permits in the "seminary student area" of "Nughan" District in northeast Mashhad. In this poor neighborhood, in addition to the "oppressed," live a group of Afghan refugees and also a number of seminary students. With the attack of the City Hall agents, hundreds of the residents of the "seminary student" area

confronted them and chased them away. But the anger and rebellion of the people did not end with the escape of the demolition crew. While increasing in number at every moment, they began to move towards Razavi and Khajeh Rabi' Streets.

When the demonstrators reached the central streets of the city with their antiregime slogans, their number had reached to thousands. People in Ark, Khosravi, Tehran Street, Vakilabad Boulevard and Upper Street and Lower Street were demonstrating when the guards opened fire on them. But the people attacked the guards in response, forcing them to retreat. From then on the demonstrations became more violent, as the angry people attacked the City Hall of Mashhad on Mojassameh Square and the government offices (including the Central Office of Economy of Khorasan) and set these buildings afire. In the people's attack, dozens of government- and law-enforcement vehicles and at least 15 busses were also set on fire. Dozens of banks were either set on fire or destroyed by the rioters.

A number of demonstrators on Vakilabad Street tried to attack the Mashhad Prison and set the prisoners free. But the regime had placed hundreds of guards around the prison. These guards opened fire on the people; subsequently, the people could not get access to the prison.

A report published by the "Iranian Nation's party" in Europe states that because of the escalation of demonstrations in the Nughan District and the seminar student area, the Tehran-Mashhad passenger train that passes through this area was forced to stop.

It is interesting that the highest religious authority in Mashhad, Ayatollah Haj Aqa Hasan Qomi, has been under house arrest for years upon Khomeyni's instructions and has not regained his freedom since Khomeyni's death. In the recent Majles elections, Hadi Khamene'i, the brother of 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, who was a Majles deputy in the Third Majles and is considered to be part of the "extremist" faction of the governing group, was defeated and lost his seat.

The Latest Reports

The latest reports late Monday on the unrest in Mashhad indicate the continuation of the unrest on Monday in Mashhad. Monday morning the central branch of the Saderat Bank in that city was also set on fire and completely destroyed. Altogether 14 branches of Saderat Bank were destroyed by the people in demonstrations.

In the Mashhad riots, almost all banks and government offices on Pahlavi Street were attacked by angry demonstrators. The central branch of the Melli Bank was also destroyed, and three stories of the Justice Department building of Khorasan as well as all documents and files were burned to ashes. The documents of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs were also mostly destroyed.

At the end of Monday, the law-enforcement forces and the guards had closed the main streets of the city and prevented people from approaching the streets in which the buildings that were set on fire were located. 'Ali Jannati, the governor general of Khorasan, called the people to calm via radio and also spoke about the conspiracies of the counterrevolutionaries.

Mashhad radio announced the imposition of martial law yesterday (Sunday) and asked the people to avoid going into the streets from 1000 to 0500; otherwise, they would be pursued by police and arrested. All the military barracks and security institutions throughout Khorasan were given readiness orders, and fresh troops are to be transported from other areas to Mashhad from Monday morning by plane. Other unconfirmed reports indicate unrest in other cities of Khorasan as well. In Tehran, the people speak joyfully about the riots in Mashhad, and the regime has implemented special security measures in the capital.

Va'ez-Tabasi Condemns Mashhad Incidents

LD1606163892 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 11 Jun 92

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez-Tabasi—the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult in Khorasan Province and the custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza—speaking today at a meeting with scholars and students of Razavi University, expressed his gratitude to the leader of the Islamic revolution for his recent remarks about the people of Mashhad.

Describing the recent events in Mashhad, he condemned the action [as heard]. He said: The people of Mashhad were among the front-runners of the Islamic revolution and, as testified by history, nurtured youths who changed the country and the world. They will not permit a number of unclean and malevolent individuals to create unrest in the city. He added: On behalf of myself, the seminary, the Basijis and all the people of Mashhad, I promise the honorable leader to actively defend the values and achievements of the Islamic revolution.

New Commander for Khorasan Security Zone Appointed

LD1606165392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0640 GMT 13 Jun 92

[Text] Brigadier General Sohrabi, commander of the Law Enforcement Force, attended a meeting of the Khorasan Governorate General in Mashhad, where he appointed Second Brigadier General 'Ali Asghar Haddadi commander of the Khorasan Security Zone.

Mashhad Basijis Readt To Combat 'Conspiracies'

LD1606184392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Jun 92

[Text] Thousands of Basijis from Mashhad participated in the great Basij and Velayat exercises this afternoon.

While reaffirming their allegiance to the custodian of the order of the Muslims, they declared their readiness to combat the conspiracies of the enemies of Islam and the revolution.

In orderly and organized ranks, the Basiji forces from towns, provinces, government departments, factories and the sisters' Basij force marched through a number of streets and gathered by the holy shrine of Imam Reza, peace be upon him.

At the gathering—which was also attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Va'ez-Tabasi, the representative of the Supreme Jurisconsult and custodian of the holy shrine of Imam Reza—Ayatollah Shirazi, the Friday imam of Mashhad, various classes of the people, and Brigadier General Afshar, the commander of the Basij Resistance Force, spoke about the preparedness of the Basij forces to combat mischief-makers' conspiracies and counter-revolutionaries' actions.

*Forces Bring Arak Riots Under Control

924S1056B London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jun 92 pp 1, 9

[Text] All last week, the arrest of those suspected of participating in the riots of 30 Ordibehesht (20 May) and the following days in Arak continued, and the city was under the complete siege of the law-enforcement forces and guards. The incoming and outgoing roads of the city were carefully controlled, and all cars entering or leaving Arak were inspected, and the identity of the people in them was investigated.

In the meantime, the "law-enforcement forces" of Arak, in a letter to SALAM newspaper published in Tehran, explaining the report published in that newspaper concerning the Arak riots, confessed that the Arak demonstrations "were suppressed and dispersed by using all resources and riot control equipment."

"The Arak security region," in its letter published on Thursday, 7 Khordad [28 May], in SALAM regarding the cause of the riots, which was the killing of a small child by a truck pursued by the agents, claimed that the above-mentioned truck was not being chased by law-enforcement forces, "because, first, the driver of the vehicle is here and prepared to give evidence and, second, if such an action had occurred, it would not be contrary to the law."

The law-enforcement forces had "corrected" the reports published on the Arak riots as follows. (The style of the letter of the "law-enforcement forces" letter has been preserved):

"After an accident between a truck and a child on the loop road...the situation, given the severity of the accident, was such that the people of the above-mentioned region who visited the location, because they were provoked emotionally, blocked the road demanding the presence of the city officials on the scene to respond to previous complaints concerning the building of an overpass. In a very short time, the traffic officers of the Arak region were present on location to carry out the legal procedures regarding the accident. But, since the crowd increased with every passing moment, the officers were prevented from arriving on the scene. Hence, the necessary decisions were implemented to disperse the crowd, at which time one of the law enforcement vehicles was fully damaged, and a number of opportunists, in vehicles, on motorcycles, on bicycles, in cars and some on foot, through various streets reached the center of the city (Shohada Square) in front of City Hall asking for justice and to speak to officials. The report that states in the last part that lack of timely action on the part of the law-enforcement officials resulted in the increased boldness of the attackers, resulting in the fire in the office buildings, is completely denied, because all officials in Arak know that at that hour of the day Shohada Square is full of ordinary people who routinely gather there, and it was impossible to react in time to separate the people from the rioters. But after frequent warnings, to some extent those who were not connected with the events dispersed. Then, immediately, all resources and riot control equipment were used to suppress and disperse the rioters. While they were escaping, some threw stones and caused damage to government buildings. All the main elements were arrested as they were escaping, and with the efforts of the concerned organizations assigned to this task, steps were being completed, and certainly all judicial officials will deal legally with these opportunists.

"Considering that these opportunists have no special place among the people and the martyr-nurturing nation, it is proper to warn and remind the Hezbollah nation to listen on these occasions to the warnings and reminders of the law enforcement officials and rapidly leave the place of unrest so as not to lose the opportunity to suppress the opportunists."

'Perpetrators' Sentenced to Prison

LD1606164592 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Jun 92

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the special court dealing with the offences committed by those responsible for the recent unrest in Arak, sentenced 29 of the perpetrators from between one to 10 years imprisonment.

According to the Justice Ministry director for Central Province, the special court, in line with the Arak public prosecutor's indictment, will deal decisively and severely with the perpetrators of the unrest. In addition to the sentences issued, the files of another group of perpetrators are being examined.

Clandestine Radio Broadcasts Messages to Resistance

NC1706105792 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1000 GMT 16 Jun 92

["Messages and Guidance Addressed to the Mojahedin Forces and Supporters of the Resistance Across Iran"—radio headline]

[Excerpts] We begin today's program with salutations to the supporters of the Mojahedin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization].

Message for Asadollah 1/30 [words indistinct]:

1. The mercenaries of the regime, doomed to annihilation, who opened fire on the people will soon meet their nemesis.
2. Please send a complete report to your commander as well as to us, through the bridge of contact with the organization's Public Relations Department. [words indistinct] end of message.

Message for [names indistinct] Zarrin Khosravi, Giti Sajjadi, Mehasti 56, Kamellia, Nazi Ebrahimi, Shirin Saleh, and Soheyla Mir:

In view of the message by the first-in-command of the organization, sister Mariam Rajavi, who has called on all our compatriots—especially the noble women of Iran, who have always been the victims of the most brutal repression and malice by Khomeyni's reactionaries and the club-wielders of this inhuman regime—to rise up across Iran, especially in greater Tehran, to support the people of Mashhad, Shiraz, and Arak and other cities that have risen up and to raise the cry of protest against the arrests and savage executions. Your cell should be able to complete (?these tasks) and to implement the instructions of sister Mariam Rajavi. Please convey this message to all supporters of the organization and the aware people of your city. Subsequent instructions will be sent to you through your commander. End of message.

Message for brother Kamal Hasanzadeh 12:

With revolutionary greetings and salutations and with hope for success in your assignment, please contact us as soon as possible. We are awaiting your progress report. End of message.

Message for (Majed Aqa'i), Rezvani, H.A., H-22, Damghani, Torabi, Rasul-M, Mehrandish, Soheyl-500, L. Tabrizian, and Fershteh Madadi:

As you are aware, the criminal executions of the Khomeyni regime in Mashhad and Shiraz resulted in an insane, furious reaction against the decaying clerical dictatorship by the disgusted people in Iran's cities, who have risen up against them. Therefore, it is your obligation and that of the other supporters near you to extend and fan the fires of the people's wrath and to increase the flames of the hallowed fury of the people. Hold special ceremonies for the proud martyrs of Mashhad and Shiraz, especially the heroic martyrs, Hamid Javid and 'Ali Sadeqi, and convey their message to the people. By using this method of convening protests, you can avenge the warm blood of the most noble martyrs of the people by fanning the anger of the people, and direct a tumultuous wave of extensive demonstrations toward the streets.

Reject Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent babbling by setting fire to the centers of oppression, pillaging and plundering the regime, destroying the memorials to the impostor [Khomeyni], and pulling down the accursed portraits of the officials of the Khomeyni regime. Crush anyone bearing the name or sign of the filthy Khomeyni regime. Please inform us of the results of your activities by means of the bridge of contact with the organization's Public Relations Department. End of message. [passage omitted]

[Message in progress] the personnel of the law enforcement forces would be tantamount to fighting the repressive criminal mercenaries who crushed the demonstrations in Bukan. By destroying the [words indistinct] and setting the vehicles of the regime's mercenaries on fire, you can fight these agents of the regime. End of message.

Message for Jabbar-9: We received the report of your activities and those of our other supporters in spreading and fanning the protests in your city. We draw your attention to the following:

1. Under current conditions, crossing the border to reach the bases of the National Liberation Army [NLA] and making contact with the supporters association and offices of the organization outside the country is (?not difficult). Experience has shown that if someone is determined, nothing can prevent him from joining the ranks of the NLA. Therefore, if you are determined, join the NLA as soon as possible.

2. Prior to your exit from (?the country), contact other supporters and bring your radio codes, addresses, and telephone numbers with you. End of message.

Message for Farideh 'Azam and Hasan 'Askari:

Brother Ebrahim and sister Mina have reached us. You can exit the country in the same way and join the NLA. Please note that you can enjoy the resources and support of our members along the way. You should go first to Ilam or Khuzestan and befriend some noble people there. With their help you can easily go to the border cities and villages, whose residents will help you reach the NLA base. Undoubtedly, Khomeyni's demoralized mercenaries are too impotent to present an obstacle to our valiant supporters' determination to join the NLA. We are looking forward to seeing you. End of message.

Supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq. The telephone number for your bridge of contact will be announced shortly.

Sri Lanka

Over 300 Tamil Tigers Killed in Recent Offensive

BK1406115492 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 14 Jun 92

[Text] Over 300 LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] cadres have been killed in the recent North-eastern operations by the security forces, giving hard moral and physical blows to the Tigers. A well-informed

member of the PLOTE [People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam] [word indistinct] said that the recent military offensive against the LTTE at Alampil—south of Mullaittivu—and Tondaimanar, Achchuveli, Tellippalai and Senthankulam to the east and west of Palali has caused the Tigers the most number of casualties since their debacle at Elephant Pass last year. About 500 Tigers were killed at Elephant Pass by the security forces in a dramatic rescue operation when hundreds of soldiers backed by the Navy and Air Force made a sea-borne landing at Vettilaikerny.

The recent blows in the north and northeast in two operations code-named Chandamarutha and Saptabala are said to have sapped the LTTE of much of its remaining strength, forcing them to fall back on Tiger's final reserves in men and material. Meanwhile, the security forces who have been bringing in more and more areas in the North under their control since the offensive began two weeks ago were yesterday consolidating themselves in the coastal areas of Senthankulam taken over on Thursday. According to a military official, the capture of Senthankulam gives the security forces dominance over coastal (Madegawa), an LTTE stronghold and a staging point for Tigers' gunrunning and sea operations.

'Heavy Losses' in Eastern Trincomalee

BK1506113692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jun 92

[Text] Two Army and two Guard Battalion soldiers were killed and terrorists suffered heavy casualties during a firefight at Morawewa in the eastern Trincomalee District on June 15th. The Joint Operations Command told LANKAPUVATH at Morawewa that a group of terrorists attacked an Air Force patrol by setting Claymore mines and firing machine guns. Troops retaliated and forced the terrorists to withdraw due to heavy casualties suffered after a firefight which lasted approximately 30 minutes. During the firefight two Army and two Guard battalion soldiers were killed. Reinforcement troops were rushed to the area in order to locate the fleeing terrorists.

Two LTTE 'Terrorists' Killed in Jaffna

BK1706111292 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jun 92

[Text] Government troops yesterday killed two LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists who attempted to infiltrate through forward defense positions of Palali in the Jaffna District. One officer and three soldiers were killed on Monday [15 June] at Alampil in the Mullaitivu District when LTTE terrorists attacked the security forces personnel engaged in construction work. Meanwhile, shootings of commanders attacked a terrorist training camp until one terrorist died at Lavanai tank in the northwest of (Kaluvianaru). The troops also recovered one T-81 rifle, LTTE literature, maps, and a large stock of dry rations.